



MORMONISM

An Examination of the Life and Teachings of Joseph Smith

Lecture notes by [Charlie Campbell](#)
Director of The Always Be Ready Apologetics Ministry
Twitter: [@CharlieABReady](#)
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I. THE ORIGIN OF THE MORMON CHURCH

The Mormon Church is officially known as: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Mormon Church is commonly referred to by Mormons, simply as “LDS,” short for Latter-day Saints.

The Church was founded by Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith was born in Vermont in 1805. Somewhat confused as a young man about the disagreements between the denominational churches of his day, Joseph Smith says he took the verse found in James 1:5 to the Lord in prayer. James 1:5 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

As the story goes, Joseph Smith, lacking wisdom about which church to join, walked into the woods (behind his home) to pray. According to Joseph Smith, God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him there in the forest and supposedly informed him that...

Stop. Stop. Stop it right there.

This is one of the reasons it’s so important to know the Bible.

If someone comes out of the forest and says that God the Father has appeared to him visibly, in human form, you should immediately realize this is not to be believed. Why?

God told Moses, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (Exodus 33:20). God the Father "alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:16). John wrote, "No man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18). Jesus said, "God is spirit" (John 4:24). God the Father doesn't have a body of flesh and bones (as the Mormon church, to this day, contends). Had the people Joseph Smith deceived known their Bibles better they would not have been misled by Smith's outrageous claims. It's so important to know the Bible!

Now, back to the story. According to Joseph Smith, God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him there in the forest and supposedly informed him that...

- the churches “were all wrong”
- “their creeds were an abomination”
- and “their professors were all corrupt”

[Source: [lds.org](#)]

What a charge to level at the churches here in America in the early 1800s. There were lots of good churches at that time.

It's important to keep in mind that a Christian's response to the claims of the Mormon Church is not a mean-spirited attack on their faith (as some Mormons claim). It is a response to Joseph Smith's attack on Christianity.

We are not here tonight with one ounce of mean-spiritedness or hatred towards Mormons. We love the Mormon people. We are only concerned with the unbiblical theology their church espouses. We have a genuine concern for the spiritual well-being of the Mormon people and believe that we have good reasons to be concerned (as I will go on to show).

Now, in 1823 (three years after supposedly being visited in the forest) Joseph Smith alleges that "a glorified resurrected being" named Moroni, appeared to him and told him of golden plates that were buried in a nearby hillside, in Cumorah, New York. These plates, as the story goes, were written by an ancient prophet-historian by the name of Mormon, and contained a record of an ancient people who had migrated from the near east to the Americas in 600 B.C. [See the Book of Mormon: Introduction]

In 1827 the angel Moroni supposedly again appeared to Smith. This time, he directed him to a location on the a hill called "Cumorah" to unearth the plates and begin "translating" the "Reformed Egyptian" characters inscribed on them with "the gift and power of God."

Joseph Smith says that he was forbidden by Moroni from revealing these golden plates to anybody lest he be destroyed. [Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, Vol. 1, 1:59-60]

Well, hello! You have to immediately suspect something fishy is going on!

Three men, David Whitmer, Martin Harris, and Oliver Cowdery, prayed with Joseph Smith that they might also get to see the plates. According to the introduction in the Book of Mormon, an angel of God came down from Heaven in June of 1829 and laid the plates before their eyes to see (not literally but in a vision).

According to the Mormon Church, some time after Joseph Smith was done translating the plates, the plates were removed by Moroni and to this day are not available for inspection.

How convenient!

It is interesting to note that all three of these individuals eventually *left* the church. [Source: Richard Abanes, *One Nation Under Gods*, p. 149-150]

In March of 1830, three years after having supposedly received the plates, Joseph Smith published his results. The name of the book?

The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon claims right on its cover to be: "Another Testament of Jesus Christ." It claims to be an abridged account of God's dealings with the original inhabitants of the American continent, between about 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. The Book of Mormon teaches that after his resurrection, Jesus came to the Americas, performed miracles, and chose 12 men from a people known as the Nephites to be His American disciples.

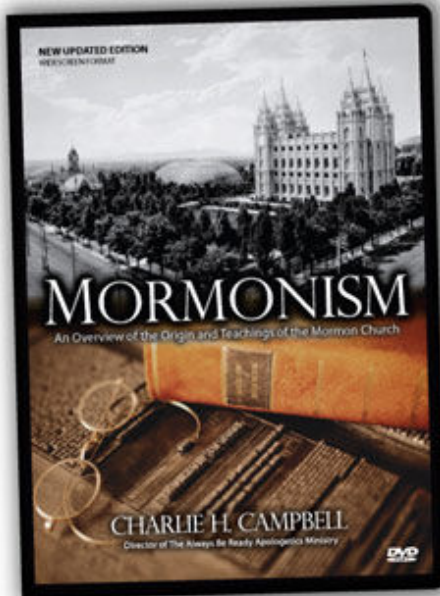
One month after the publication of the Book of Mormon in 1830, Joseph Smith founded his church in Fayette, New York. As the church grew, so did public opposition, not only because of their doctrines, but also because of the polygamy Joseph Smith was espousing. This opposition forced the Mormons to move on to other areas. They settled for a while in Kirtland, Ohio; then in Independence, Missouri; then in Nauvoo, Illinois, where Smith became the mayor of the city. During this time, Joseph Smith's continuing revelations yielded other Mormon "Scriptures": *Doctrine and Covenants* and *The Pearl of Great Price*. [Concise wording here adapted from Ron Rhodes, *Find It Quick Handbook on Cults and New Religions*, p. 64]

By 1844, Joseph Smith, at the age of thirty nine, had nearly 35,000 followers.

In 1844 Joseph Smith was imprisoned in Carthage, Illinois, and charged with inciting a riot after his city council attempted to destroy the office and printing presses of a newspaper company that exposed the

Mormon's secret practice of polygamy.

Mormon missionaries convert more than 310,000 people every year.



We're hoping to put a dent in that number.

This **NEW EDITION DVD** by Charlie Campbell discusses...

- Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism
- The early history of Mormonism
- The alleged golden plates
- Four unbiblical teachings of the Mormon Church
- The utter lack of archaeological evidence for the Book of Mormon
- Changes to the Book of Mormon
- Scientific problems in the Book of Mormon
- Plagiarism in the Book of Mormon
- Joseph Smith's failed prophecies
- Tips on Witnessing to Mormons

This DVD/presentation was recorded before a live congregation in southern California and contains more than 100 of the photographs that Charlie Campbell used in his PowerPoint presentation. Widescreen format. Run time: 70 minutes. \$11.95

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Before Joseph Smith could be tried on these charges, a mob broke into his cell and killed both him and his brother. Besides teaching many things that are contrary to the Bible (some of which we'll look at shortly) Joseph Smith made numerous false prophecies. Here are a couple of examples:

In September of 1832 Joseph Smith claimed that the Lord told him that the latter-day Saints would build the New Jerusalem and its temple in Zion, Missouri, *during his generation*.

Joseph Smith said: "For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house... which house shall be built unto the Lord in this generation, upon the consecrated spot as I have appointed."

Joseph Smith was in Kirtland, Ohio, at the time that he made this prophecy. Little did he know that, as he spoke, his followers in Zion were being run out of town. Their printing presses were destroyed, and some of their leaders were tarred and feathered!

Well, it has been 170 years since this prophecy was made. Generations have come and gone since 1832 and the New Jerusalem has not been built in Zion, Missouri. A proven false prophecy. There are many.

On May 6, 1843, Joseph Smith made this prophecy:

"I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in *few years*

the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left . . .”

Well, the United States government did not redress (or rectify) any of the wrongs committed against the Mormons in Missouri and now, over 150 years later, the U.S. government is still standing.

Here we have another example of a false prophecy. And there were many more. What are we to think about a person who prophesies in the name of the Lord and his prophecies do not come to pass? Well, notice with me what God says in Deuteronomy 18...

Deuteronomy 18:22

“When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

God says, “you shall not be afraid of him.” That word *afraid* in the Hebrew is the word *guwr* (Deut. 18:22). Beside meaning “afraid” it can also mean “to turn aside from the road.” In other words, God is saying, we are to have nothing to do with false prophets. There is to be no turning aside from the truth to follow after them.

Unfortunately, back in the early 1800s, many people did not heed God’s Word regarding this matter and the Mormon religion continued to grow, even after Joseph Smith’s death.

Brigham Young (1801-77) took over leadership as the second president of the Mormon Church. It was under Brigham Young’s leadership that the followers of Joseph Smith’s teachings made the long journey west to relocate to Salt Lake City, Utah. And of course that is where the Mormon Church has been headquartered to this day.

Today, the Mormon Church has grown to 13,000,000 members and is officially known as: “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” It’s unfortunate that they have attached our Lord’s name to it, for Mormonism is far from Christian (as I will go on to show!).

II. FOUR UNBIBLICAL TEACHINGS OF THE MORMON CHURCH

There are numerous teachings we disagree with the Mormon Church on. Let’s just consider four. This first one has to do with...

1. The Mormon Church’s View of God

Mormonism is a polytheistic religion (e.g., *The Pearl of Great Price*, [Abraham 5:1-21](#)). That is, they believe in the existence of more than one god. Although Mormons believe in the existence of more than one god, they only *worship* one god, whom they call “Heavenly Father” or “Elohim.”

This god (“Elohim” or “Heavenly Father”) is just one of many gods in an eternal chain of gods that have been begotten by other gods. Because “Elohim” is the god over this planet, LDS leaders say we need not worship the other gods that were around *before* Elohim. Elohim is our creator and thus the god to whom we are accountable.

Going along with their unbiblical view of God, the Mormon Church also denies the traditional, Biblical doctrine of the Trinity. The Bible teaches that there is one God who eternally exists in three distinct but coequal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Mormon Church denies this. They teach that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three *separate* gods amongst the uncountable gods that they say exist.

The Bible says differently. Isaiah 44:6 and 8 says: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his

Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; *Besides Me there is no God...*I know not one.'" If God—who is omniscient—does not know of any other gods, then surely there are no other gods. And this is something that Scripture affirms elsewhere as well. 1 Corinthians 8:4 says, "There is no God but one."

That's pretty clear. I'll trust the Bible.

2. The Mormon's Church's View of Man

The Mormon Church says that man is a god "in embryo" [*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, "Christology," 1992, p. 273] and may attain exaltation to godhood just as his Heavenly Father has.

Joseph Smith declared: "God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man." [*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345-346]

The fifth president of the LDS church, Lorenzo Snow, coined the phrase, "As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become." [Quoted in *The Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p. 105-106]

According to Mormon teaching, God and man are of "the same species." [*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, "Christology," 1992, p. 273]

Mormons believe that before birth into this present world, all human beings preexisted in Heaven as spiritual offspring of a father and mother, a god and goddess. [*Gospel Principles*, 2010, p. 275]

According to LDS doctrine, being born into this life here on Earth is something that we agreed to in Heaven. Mormons are taught that this life serves as a test and a means of obtaining exaltation one day to godhood. [*Gospel Principles*, 2010, p. 275]

Brigham Young, the church's second president, said: "The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself...We are created to become Gods like unto our Father in Heaven." [*Journal of Discourses*, 3:93]

According to Mormon theology, one achieves exaltation by living a life of obedience to Mormon teaching and practices.

Those exalted to godhood will get to inhabit a planet one day and procreate spirit children, continuing the cycle of gods begetting other gods. [*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:19-20, *Gospel Principles*, 1992, p. 14]

Is it possible that humans can become gods someday? Not a chance. The God of the Bible says this in Isaiah 43:10: "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. *Before* Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be *after* Me."

There were no gods before God and there will never be another god after him! I'll trust the Bible.

3. The Mormon Church's View of Jesus

Mormons call Jesus the "Son of God," just as Christians do, but they have a whole different idea in mind of what that means.

The Bible teaches that Jesus...

- is God (John 20:28)
- is the creator of all things (John 1:3)
- existed from all eternity (Micah 5:2)
- is equal in nature with the Father (John. 5:18, Hebrews 1:3)

Mormon teaching says that Jesus was the very first of *many* sons who were procreated in Heaven by Elohim and one of his many unnamed wives.

These sons, according to the Mormon Church, included Lucifer (Satan) himself.

[See: *Pearl of Great Price*: Book of Moses, Chapter 4, v. 1-4; *Gospel Principles*, 1992, p. 17-18]

Mike Huckabee mentioned this while he was campaigning for President in the U.S.A. in 2007 and was immediately cast aside by a spokesperson from the Mormon Church who said this issue is usually raised by those who wish to “smear” the Mormon religion. This was a deceptive attempt to avoid admitting that Mr. Huckabee was absolutely right.

The blasphemous idea that Jesus and Satan are brothers (equal in nature) is the official teaching of the Mormon Church. Even the official LDS.org website acknowledges this. [Click here to see](#) (scroll down to the second question). In case they change the link, it says there:

“On first hearing, the doctrine that Lucifer and our Lord, Jesus Christ, are brothers may seem surprising to some—especially to those unacquainted with latter-day revelations. But both the scriptures and the prophets affirm that Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers... Jesus was Lucifer’s older brother. (See Col. 1:15; D&C 93:21.)”

This is obviously not something they wanted Mike Huckabee to expose, but it is the teaching of the church.

The Mormon Church also denies the Biblical account of the virgin birth. It teaches instead that the human body given to Jesus at His birth was the product of physical relations between God the Father who visited Earth and had relations with Mary (who was previously his spirit daughter in Heaven!).

So, the Jesus of Mormonism is a different Jesus than the one the Bible reveals and the One Christians have long loved and worshipped (the Son of God, uncreated, equal with the Father in nature and born of a virgin).

4. The Mormon Church’s View of Salvation

The Mormon Church teaches that Christ’s death on the cross brings about a general salvation for all mankind. The result of this salvation is that *all* mankind will be resurrected and given eternal life. This salvation will be even be granted to the worst of sinners (including non-Mormons). [*Gospel Principles*, published by LDS in 1992, p. 74, 297-298]

The Mormon Church teaches that to experience individual "exaltation" in Heaven one must have repented, been baptized in the Mormon Church, and lived a life of obedience to the laws and teachings of the Mormon Church.

So to the Mormon, Christ’s work is merely the *beginning* of salvation. Human works are needed to complete the process. Depending on your works, the Mormon Church teaches that a person can achieve one of three different levels in Heaven:

- Celestial (the highest, for faithful Mormons)
- Terrestrial (the middle, for "less than valiant Mormons" and morally upright non-Mormons)
- Telestial (the lowest, for those who were carnal and sinful throughout life)

According to the Mormon Church, Hell is a temporary place of suffering for the wicked. After a person’s time of punishment they too will be accepted into glory. To make it into the celestial kingdom (the highest level) and go on to become a god, one must also be married in a Mormon temple sometime in this life.

Well, Christians obviously disagree with all of these things. The Bible teaches that salvation and everlasting life has nothing to do with our works, but everything to do with God’s grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Titus 3:5

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...”

If you want to have your sins forgiven today, you don't have to join the Mormon church. You don't have to ride around on a bike. The Bible says to turn from your sins, put your faith in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for your sins and you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

If you have never done that, do that today, before it's too late. The Bible, unlike the Mormon church, makes it clear that unrepentant, unforgiven sinners go to Hell and that Hell is a place of "everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46).

So, that is a brief look at four unbiblical teachings of the Mormon Church:

The Mormon church has a polytheistic view of God. They have a procreated Jesus who is equal in nature with Lucifer. They teach that man can progress to Godhood and that salvation is procured through our involvement with the Mormon church in conjunction with our good works.

That is not Christianity. Now the question we were hearing a while back on the news was this...

IS MORMONISM A CULT?

A pastor down in Texas referred to Mormonism as a "cult" when talking about Presidential contender Mitt Romney. And the media—always on the lookout for some new controversy in the Presidential race—went crazy trying to turn it into a big story. So what's our answer to this question?

It depends on how we define the word *cult*. If we define a cult to be any religious group that derives from a parent religion (like Christianity) but in fact departs from that parent religion by denying (explicitly or implicitly) one or more of the essential doctrines of that religion, then yes the LDS group is a cult of Christianity. The Nation of Islam is a cult of Islam. The Hare Krishna sect is a cult of Hinduism. There's a problem though.

Our society today has largely abandoned that definition of the word *cult*. A cult to most people today is a group of people whose entire lives are controlled by a heavy-handed individual who has them sitting around in the dark participating in weird séances and drinking poisonous Cool-Aid. That's what people envision when we say "cult."

And so, when they hear Christians say "Mitt Romney belongs to a cult," they think "You Christians are so foolish! Surely Mitt Romney doesn't participate in séances!"

So then, it might be better to avoid the word "cult" and just tell people specifically what we think about Mormonism:

"Mormonism is a modern day, man-made, polytheistic, God-making, Jesus-demoting religion invented by Joseph Smith in the early 1800s that is made up today of very nice people who've been led to turn their back on the traditional, orthodox doctrines of Christianity as revealed in the Bible. Call it what you like, it's not Christianity."

Maybe that would go over better. *That is the truth* regarding the matter. Of course, we need to explain these things in love.

All right, so first we considered the origin of Mormonism. Secondly, we considered four unbiblical teachings of the Mormon Church. Thirdly, I'd like to talk about...

III. EVIDENCE THE BOOK OF MORMON CANNOT BE THE WORD OF GOD

There are lots of reasons to reject the Book of Mormon. Allow me to share with you just six—six reasons you can be confident the Book of Mormon is not trustworthy. You can more easily recall these if you can

remember the acronym...

S.A.C.R.E.D.

Six reasons why the Book of Mormon is not SACRED Scripture.

1. It Contradicts Authentic Scripture.

Isaiah 8:20

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

God gives us a way of testing other so-called revelation. Hold it up to the Word of God. Well, the Book of Mormon, in many instances, fails this test. It contradicts authentic Scripture. Here are some examples:

- The Bible says that Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem (Luke 2:4, Micah 5:2).
- According to the Book of Mormon, Jesus was born in the city of Jerusalem (Alma 7:10).
- The Bible says believers were first called Christians after Paul’s ministry in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
- The Book of Mormon claims people were known by this title as early as 73 B.C. (Alma 46:15).
- In the Old Testament the only ones who could be priests were the descendants of Levi, one of the twelve sons of Israel (Numbers 3:9-10).
- The Book of Mormon claims that descendants of the tribe of Manasseh were made priests (Alma 10:3, 2 Nephi 5:26).

The Book of Mormon has many of these kinds of inconsistencies and contradictions. For more examples, [click here](#).

2. Archaeological Verification is Absolutely Lacking.

Not one piece of evidence has ever been found to support the Book of Mormon—not a trace of the large cities it names, no ruins, no coins, no letters or documents or monuments, nothing in writing. Not even one of the rivers or mountains or any of the topography it mentions has ever been identified. [Dave Hunt, *In Defense of the Faith*, p.156]

Nothing which demonstrates that the Book of Mormon is anything other than an early nineteenth century piece of American fiction, invented by Joseph Smith, has ever been found.

The National Geographic Society put out this statement regarding the Book of Mormon in 1998:

“Archaeologists and other scholars have long probed the hemisphere’s past, and the Society does not know of anything found so far that has substantiated the Book of Mormon.” –National Geographic Society (August 12, 1998)

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. put out a three page statement regarding the Book of Mormon in 1996. They said:

“The Smithsonian Institution has never used The Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book.”

In response to a question about the Book of Mormon in 1981, the National Geographic Society said:

“Neither the Society nor any other institution of equal prestige has ever used the Book of Mormon in locating archaeological sites. Although many Mormon sources claim that the Book of Mormon has been substantiated by archaeological findings, this claim has not been scientifically substantiated. However, several locations in the Bible have.” –National Geographic Society, Harry Palmer, September 29, 1981

Even some Mormon scholars, such as Dee F. Green, have conceded that this is the case. Green was formerly the editor of the University Archaeological Society Newsletter, published at Brigham Young University. He said:

“No Book of Mormon location is known with reference to modern topography. Biblical archaeology can be studied because we do know where Jerusalem and Jericho were and are, but we do not know where Zarahemla and Bountiful (nor any other location for that matter) were or are. It would seem then that a concentration on geography should be the first order of business, but we have already seen that twenty years of such an approach has left us empty-handed.” [*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Summer 1969, pp. 77-78]

Or there was Thomas Stuart Ferguson, a Mormon archaeologist and apologist. He dedicated more than twenty years of his life to finding proof for the Book of Mormon. He founded the New World Archaeology Foundation at Brigham Young University, which was established for the purpose of unearthing archaeological evidence that would support the Book of Mormon. After utterly failing to find any evidence, he said this:

“With all of these great efforts, it cannot be established factually that anyone, from Joseph Smith to the present day, has put his finger on a single point of terrain that was a Book of Mormon geographical place. And the hemisphere has been pretty well checked out by competent people...I must agree with Dee Green, who has told us that to date there is no Book of Mormon geography. I, for one, would be happy if Dee was wrong...you can't set Book of Mormon geography down anywhere—because it is fictional.” [Cited in Richard Abanes, *One Nation Under Gods*, p. 76-80 and footnotes]

Then why would he stay in the church? A year later, Thomas Ferguson wrote...

“Mormonism is probably the best conceived myth-fraternity to which one can belong.” –Thomas Stuart Ferguson, Founder of the New World Archaeology Foundation at Brigham Young University [Cited in Richard Abanes, *One Nation Under Gods*, p. 76-80 and footnotes]

If a Mormon tells you that archaeological evidence *does* exist, put the burden of proof back on them. Ask for hard documentation from non-Mormon sources that you can examine. A great DVD that discusses this utter lack of archaeological evidence is [The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon](#).

3. It Has Undergone Enormous Change.

Joseph Smith said that he translated the golden plates from which he supposedly got the Book of Mormon, letter-by-letter and “by the power of God.” [*History of the Church*, i, p.54-55) see *Saint's Herald*, November 15, 1962, p.16]

Joseph Smith said that the Book of Mormon was: “the most correct of any book on Earth.” [*History of the Church*, 4:461; this is also stated in the Introduction in the Book of Mormon]

If that was true, there shouldn't have been any need for *any* corrections—even spelling and grammatical errors. But, there *have* been changes. Lots of them.

There have been more than 4,000 changes

made to the Book of Mormon between the time that the original was published in 1830 and current edition published in 1981. This can pose a real problem to Mormons.

If the Book of Mormon is “the most correct of any book on earth,” as Joseph Smith said, and if the Book of Mormon were truly translated letter by letter “by the power of God” by Joseph Smith, there would have been no need for *any* changes!

Here are a couple examples of the changes:

- The original version at 1 Nephi 11:21 says that Jesus is “the eternal Father.” Today's version says (in the same verse) that Jesus is: “the Son of the eternal Father.”
- The original version at Mosiah 21:28 says that “King Benjamin had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings.” Today's version says (in the same verse) that “King Mosiah had a gift from God,

whereby he could interpret such engravings."

To see more changes, click [here](#).

We also recommend the book [3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon](#) by Jerald and Sandra Tanner. It is an exact photographic reproduction of the first edition of the Book of Mormon. And the authors, the Tanners, mark everywhere the wording has changed and in the margins tell you what the new edition of the Book of Mormon says. Now, a moment ago I said there were more than 4,000 changes. Why does the title of this book only say 3,913 changes? Because it was published before the 1981 edition of the Book of Mormon was released. The 1981 edition introduced between 100 and 200 additional word changes.

4. It Rips Off Thousands of Words and Phrases from Other Sources

In other words, the Book of Mormon contains extensive plagiarism. As you know, to plagiarize is to take ideas or writings from another and offer them as one's own. Well, the Book of Mormon does this hundreds of times.

In addition to borrowing from other books* in print at the time Joseph Smith was alive, Smith borrowed thousands of words, verses and paragraphs directly from the King James Version of the Bible. [*e.g., Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews* published in 1823; Josiah Priest's *The Wonders of Nature and Providence Displayed*, published in 1825. See Richard Abanes, *One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church*, p. 68ff for details and examples of plagiarism from these extrabiblical sources]

In fact, even the *italicized* words in the King James Version have been plagiarized. The italicized words, as noted in the preface of the KJV, were added by the King James translators to add clarity. And yet, even those words ended up in the Book of Mormon! That's odd.

Joseph Smith said that the golden plates he supposedly translated in 1830, were originally penned way back between 600 B.C. and A.D. 421. That raises a challenging question for our Mormon friends.

How could the Book of Mormon contain such extensive quotations from the King James Version of the Bible that was written in Old English and wasn't even published until 1611, more than a 1,000 years later?

That is a question Mormons do not like to be asked. The answer to the question is that Joseph Smith plagiarized from the King James Version of the Bible.

5. It is Permeated with Scientific and Historical Errors.

Dr. Thomas Key (TDKey.com), a university biology instructor and author of the book *The Book of Mormon in the Light of Science*, documents numerous problems that exist in the Book of Mormon.

Among the problems he documents are the Book of Mormon's:

- Geographical problems
- Botanical problems
- Zoological problems
- Language problems
- Microbiological problems
- Physiological problems
- Physical and Chemical Problems
- Technological problem
- Anthropological problems
- Historical problems
- Grammatical and Spelling Problems (in the first edition 1830).

This book can be downloaded as a PDF, for free, on Dr. Key's website (TDKey.com).

I'll walk you through one of the errors in the Book of Mormon and leave the others for you to investigate on your own.

The Book of Mormon claims that in 600 B.C. (about 2,600 years ago) there was a migration of Hebrew people to the Americas. The introduction to the Book of Mormon says that these people, whom Joseph Smith called Lamanites, “are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.” In other words, the Book of Mormon claims that the Native American Indians actually trace their roots back to the Hebrew people. That foundational claim in the Book of Mormon has been disproved by a wealth of scientific DNA research.

Archaeologists, anthropologists, and now DNA experts, have reached a consensus: The Native American Indians were not, and are not, related to the Hebrew people as the Book of Mormon claims. Had there been a Hebrew migration to the new world in ancient times, as the Book of Mormon claims, there would at least be some evidence of this in the DNA of modern-day Native Americans. That is not the case.

There never was a Hebrew migration to the Americas in ancient times and there is no evidence that there ever was a Lamanite race.

There is a great DVD documenting this DNA evidence called: [DNA vs. the Book of Mormon](#). I suggest handing out this DVD to your Mormon friends and asking them, “Would you watch this and let me know what you think?”

6. It Was Published by a Deceitful False Prophet.

As we saw earlier when we were discussing the origin of Mormonism, Joseph Smith was a false prophet who is not to be trusted. And because he was the publisher—and I believe author—of this book, we can quickly dismiss the Book of Mormon as being untrustworthy.

Quick Recap of Problems with Book of Mormon:

So, to quickly recap why the Book of Mormon is not **S.A.C.R.E.D.** Scripture...

1. The BOM contradicts authentic **SCRIPTURE**.
2. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL** verification is absolutely lacking.
3. The BOM has undergone enormous **CHANGE**.
4. The BOM **RIPS** off thousands of words and phrases from other sources.
5. The BOM is permeated with scientific and historical **ERRORS**.
7. The BOM was published by a **DECEITFUL** false prophet.

Orson Pratt, a Mormon "apostle" of old, said the following in 1851:

“The Book of Mormon claims to be a divinely inspired record...If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions [burdens] ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions. . . if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it.” [*Orson Pratt's Works*, “Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon,” Liverpool, 1851, p.1-2]

Seeing that the Book of Mormon *is* false, we’ll allow Pratt's own statement to summarize for us what the Book of Mormon is: “It is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions [burdens] ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions.”

May the Lord help many Mormons to see that that is the case.