



# CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

## *Latter-day Saints*

Mormons

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*Knowing Your Doctrines*

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John Marcos C. da Silva

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Christian Religious Research Center

Visit the website: [www.nprcristao.com.br](http://www.nprcristao.com.br)

Contact: [contato@nprcristao.com.br](mailto:contato@nprcristao.com.br)

## Mormonism – History - Basic Doctrines

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*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach any other gospel to you...Galatians 1:8.*

The Religious Organization The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began in the mid-1820s in the United States by Joseph Smith. According to his account, while reading James 1:5 he asked God for wisdom and during a moment of prayer in a forest, two spiritual beings appeared to him, who says: "When the light rested upon me, I saw two personages, whose splendor and glory defy all description, hovering in the air above me. One of them spoke to me, calling me by name, and said, pointing to the other: This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him! My object in approaching the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, in order to know which to join. (...) I was told not to join any of them, for they were all wrong... -*The Pearl of Great Price, 2015, Joseph Smith History, pages 55,56.*

### The Book of Mormon the Keystone of Faith

Mormons believe in the Bible, but when it is translated correctly, what they say: "We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God." –*Pearls of Great Price, 2015, Articles of Faith 8.* They claim that the Book of Mormon is the most correct of all books, which says: "Concerning this record the Prophet Joseph Smith declared: I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion; and that by following its precepts a man would come nearer to God than by following those of any other book." –*The Book of Mormon, 2015, Introduction.*

### The Book of Mormon – Its Prophets Wrote from Their Own Knowledge

The Mormon prophets wrote according to their knowledge, "yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians." – Book of Mormon 1 Nephi 2:1. In the book of Jacob we also find this same statement, "And it came to pass that I, Jacob, began to grow old; and as the record of this people is being written upon the other plates of Nephi, therefore, I finish this record, declaring that I have written according to the best of my knowledge." – Book of Mormon Jacob 7:26.

The prophets of God were inspired by the Holy Spirit of God when writing the Holy Scriptures (2 Peter 2:20,21). Every Christian who professes faith in God and Jesus Christ will agree that the Bible is the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes only in theory that the Bible is the word of God, and in its various writings the Book of Mormon is the cornerstone and the most correct of all the books on earth. Therefore, in view of this statement, as Christians we must reject this heretical teaching (Galatians 1:8; Ephesians 2:20-22).

## **Joseph Smith's 1830 Bible Translation**

In 1830 Joseph Smith began revising the King James Version of the Bible, as he had not finished it. In Genesis 50:24-36, he added a prophecy about his own coming as an “elect Seer.” “The Lord my God will raise up a seer, who shall be a ‘choice seer’ for the fruit of my loins.” *The Bible Corrected by Joseph Smith*, 1867, Genesis 50:24-36. This chosen seer mentioned in this translation at Genesis 50:26 is Joseph Smith, according to Mormons.

For centuries, religious groups have emerged which, according to their leaders, have received divine revelations. The truth is that these “Divine Revelations” are heresies preached as the word of God, and as if they were adding something to the Holy Scriptures (Revelation 22:18-19).

## **A Divine Revelation – Restoration of Biblical Truths**

It is common for heretical sects to claim that they received divine revelations through a leader and that this leader was chosen by God to “Restore Biblical truths.” The Bible, and only the Bible, warns us of the emergence of these men, False Prophets (2 Peter 2:1), and also warns us of the emergence of another gospel (Galatians 1:8). Mormons believe that just as the faithful of old received angels, faithful such as Mary and Joseph, Peter and John, so it was with the Prophet Joseph Smith. “Yes, Joseph Smith did see angels and see visions because he was the instrument in the hands of God to restore the same Church of Jesus Christ that existed anciently with all its powers, as well as all its doctrines.” – Joseph Smith, The Prophet of the Restoration – Elder Tad. R. Callister of the Seventy, October 2009.

## **Birth of Jesus Christ**

Book of Mormon - Alma 7:10 – “And behold, he shall be born of Mary, in Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel; and a shadow shall overshadow her; and she shall conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and shall bring forth a son, even the Son of God.”

The Bible in Micah 5:2 – “And thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me one that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” According to Micah’s prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus Christ confirmed in Luke 2:1-7, in the city of Bethlehem. The Mormon justifies this by stating that the citation of the city of Jerusalem included its surroundings, including the city of Bethlehem.

## **The Mormon Jesus was fathered by Adam and Mary**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believes that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost, but through a relationship with Mary and Adam the Father of mankind. - Journal of Discourses, 1854, Vol. I, page 50. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ Our Lord was begotten by the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20).

## **The Mormon God was once a Man with a tangible body**

The Mormon God was once a God like man, which says: "It is the first principle of the Gospel to know certainly the character of God, and to know..., that he was a man like ourselves... –*Journal of Discourses, 1859, Volume 6, page 3*. They believe that God is not just a spirit, but a person who has a tangible body, see: "We also testify that God the Father is not just a spirit, but a glorified person who has a tangible body, just as His resurrected Son, Jesus Christ, does. –*Liahona, July 1995, page 89*.

They believe that all mankind are children of God and all born of Heavenly parents, "Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, before he came to earth to receive a physical body." –*Gospel Principles, 2009, page 9*.

Mormons teach that the Gods created the heavens and the earth, which says: "And then the Lord said, Let us go down. And they came down in the beginning; and they, that is, the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth." –*Pearl of Great Price, 2015, Abraham 4:1, page 43*."

In the book of *Introduction to Systematic Theology* by Millard J. Erickson, *Vida Nova, 1992*, says about the Greatness and Spirituality of God, which says: "Among the most basic of God's attributes of greatness is the fact that he is spirit; that is, he is not composed of matter and does not have a physical nature. This is stated most clearly by Jesus in John 4:24: God is spirit; and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Our God is not like man, God is Our Eternal Creator (Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 43:10), Omnipotent (Genesis 17:1); Omniscient (1 John 3:); Omnipresent (Hebrews 4:13); Immutable (Psalm 102:25,26), in view of these attributes belonging to God, it is a heresy of the Mormons to teach that God is equal to man, God as Creator is above man in everything (Isaiah 55:8,9).

## **The Mormon Jesus was Lucifer's Brother in Heaven**

Mormons believe in another Jesus, the Jesus of the Mormons is the brother of Lucifer, who says: "Satan, whose name was Lucifer, also came forward and said: Here am I, send me; I will be your son, and I will redeem all mankind, that not one soul shall be lost..., (...) Satan desired to have all the honor for our salvation. (...) After hearing the two sons speak, Heavenly Father said: I will send the first (Abraham 3:27). –*Gospel Principles, 2009, pages 13, 14*. The quoted text is from the book *Pearl of Great Price, page 43, on Abraham 3:27*, which says: "And the Lord said, Whom shall I send? And one like unto the Son of man answered, Here am I; send me. And another answered and said, Here am I; send me. And the Lord said, I will send the first. "

The Holy Scripture teaches us that the Devil has sinned against God from the beginning and Jesus Christ was manifested to undo the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8).

Mormon doctrine teaches that Jesus Christ is our brother, which states: "All who have been born on earth are our spirit brothers. As spirit children of God, we inherit from Him the potential to develop His divine qualities."—*Gospel Principles, 2009, page 9.*

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is eternal and in Him dwells all the fullness of God (John 1:1; Colossians 2:9), Our Savior (Matthew 1:21), Our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).

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