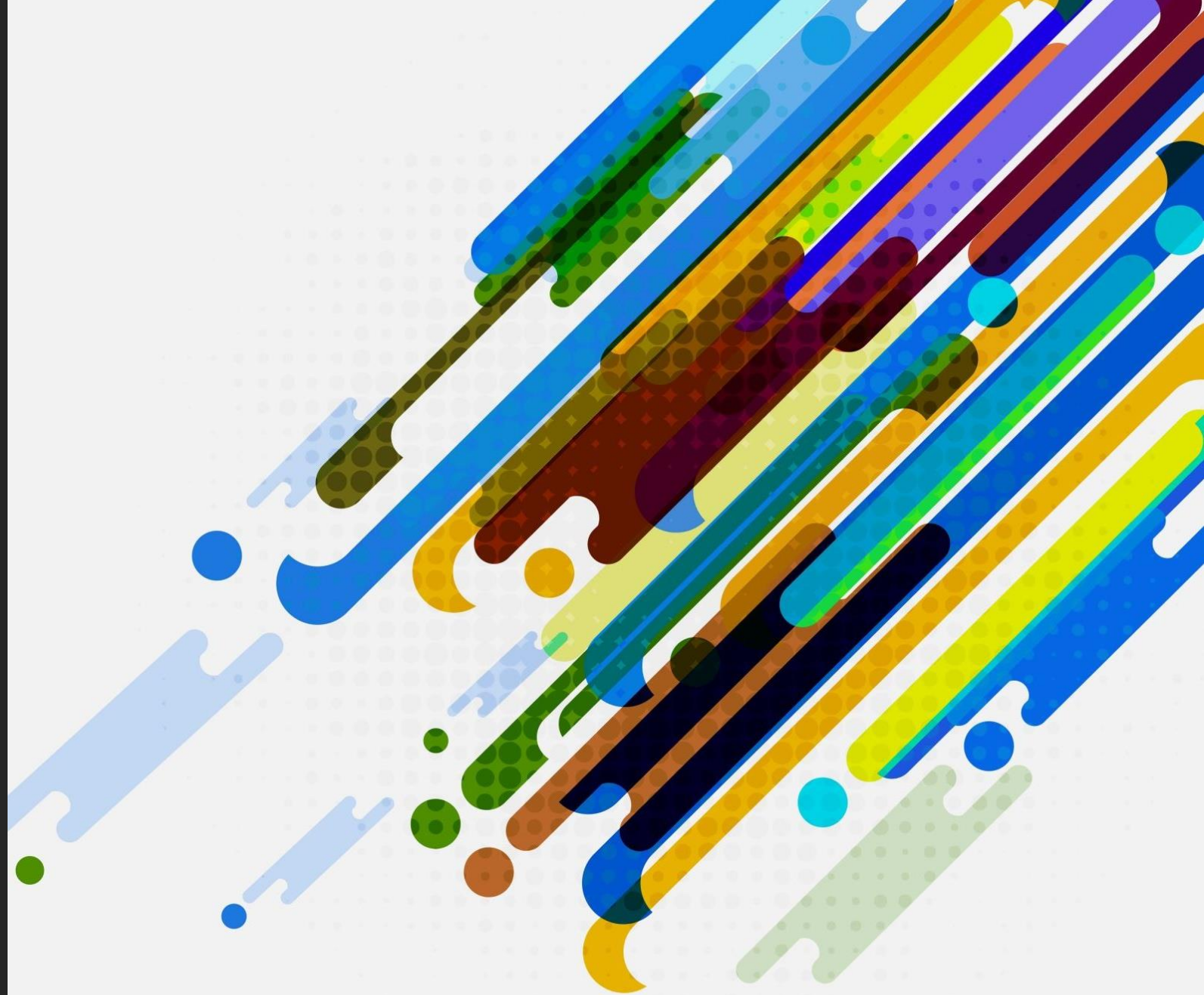

LATTER-DAY SAINTS & MORMONISM

DR. SHAWN NELSON



OUTLINE

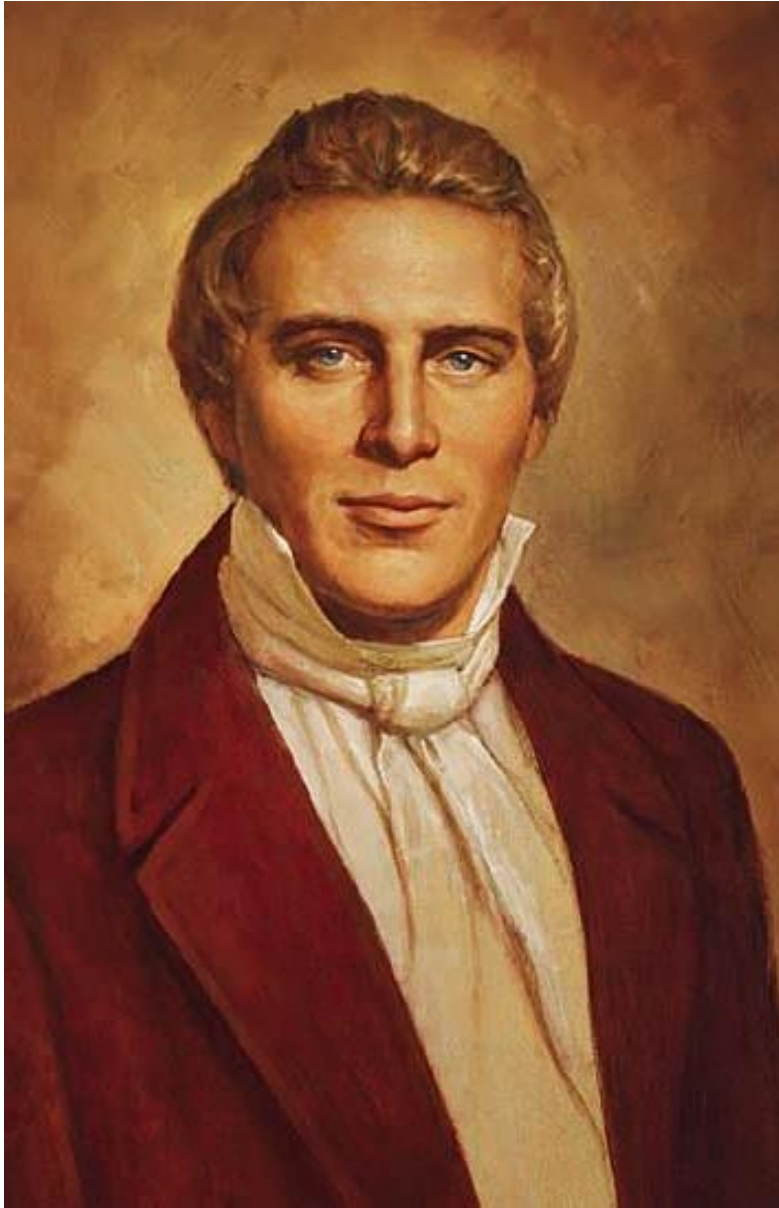
Overview

Beliefs

Practices

Response

Tips



JOSEPH SMITH (1805 - 1844)

- When Smith was about 15, he prayed about **which denomination** he should join.
- He said God the Father and Jesus Christ **appeared** to him.
- They told him to join none of the existing churches because **they were all wrong**.
- After more angelic visitations, he was told God would use him to **re-establish the true Christian church**.

ANOTHER TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST?

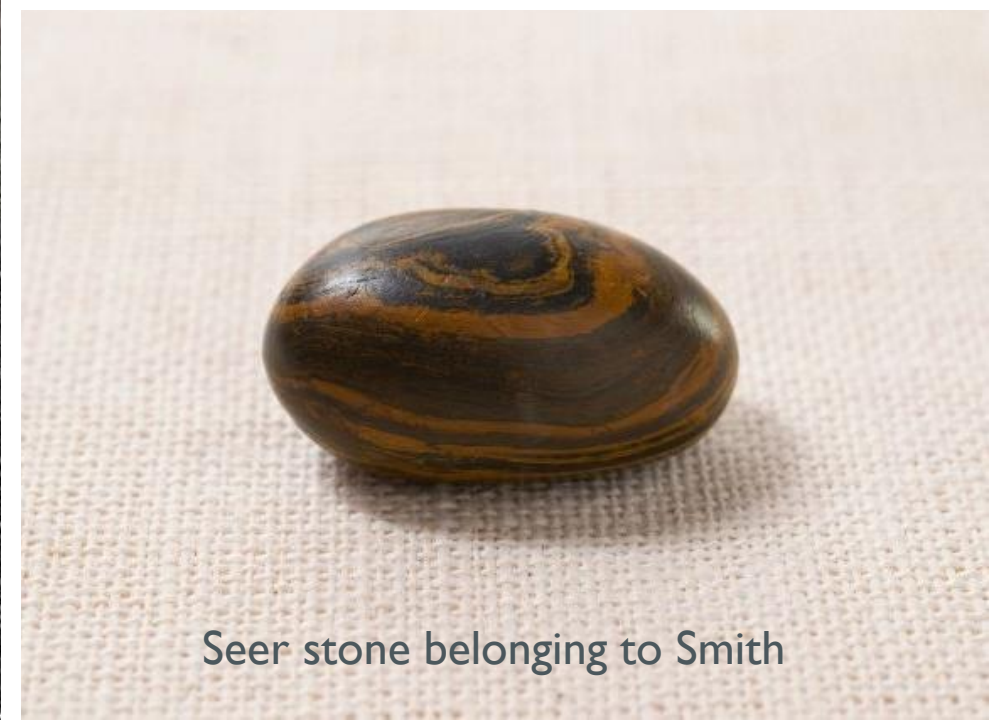
- An angel (Moroni) told him about some hidden **golden plates** in New York.
- He said he was able to use a **seer stone** to translate the plates (said to be Reformed Egyptian).
- This was the **Book of Mormon**.
 - Tells the story of different groups coming to America all the way back from 2200 BC from the Tower of Babel.
 - God supposedly revealing himself to them like the Israelites in the OT.
 - Eventually Jesus Christ comes and preaches to them also.
 - A man named Mormon and his son Moroni kept the records and buried them.



Hill Cumorah, where tablets were said to be found.



Smith put face into hat with stone to get revelation



Seer stone belonging to Smith



FOLLOWERS

- They have **16.8 million members** worldwide.
- If it were a denomination (it's not!) it would be the **4th largest Christian denomination** in the US.
- 54,539 full-time volunteer missionaries.
- **175 temples** worldwide (2022)
- Members now want to be called "Latter-day Saints" (not Mormons).

OUTLINE

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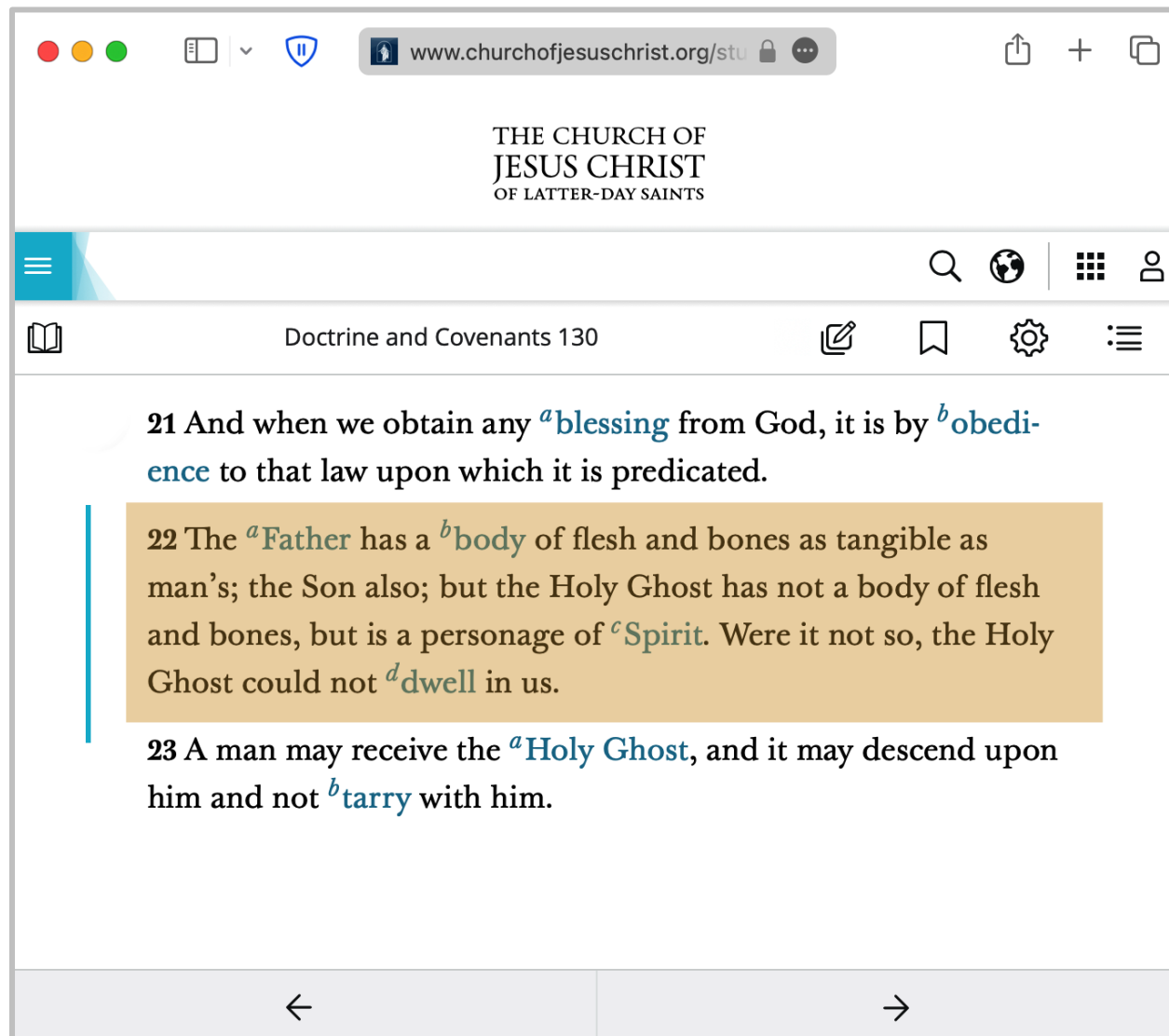
Practices

Response

Tips

3 GODS

- They are polytheistic / henotheistic.
- Father / Son / Holy Ghost
 - What we call the Trinity is three separate gods.
 - They're the “**Godhead**” – united in purpose.
- Physical bodies
 - The **Father** and **Jesus** have physical, perfected, glorified bodies.
 - **Holy Ghost** is a spirit without a physical body.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.churchofjesuschrist.org/stu. The page header reads "THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS". The main content area displays "Doctrine and Covenants 130". The text is as follows:

21 And when we obtain any ^ablessing from God, it is by ^bobedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

22 The ^aFather has a ^bbody of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of ^cSpirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not ^ddwell in us.

23 A man may receive the ^aHoly Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not ^btarry with him.

[Click here to view on LDS website](#)



Bruce R. McConkie



Infinite number of
gods on other planets

AN "INFINITE NUMBER" OF GODS

- Bruce R. McConkie:

"Three separate personages – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – comprise the Godhead. As **each of these persons is a God**, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that **a plurality of Gods exists**. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is **an infinite number of holy personages**, drawn from worlds without number, who have **passed on to exaltation and are thus gods...**"

(Bruce R. McConkie, member of Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, *Mormon Doctrine*, 576).

OUR GOD WAS ONCE A MAN

- **God was once a man** on another planet before being exalted to **Godhood**.



www.churchofjesuschrist.org/stu

Chapter 47: Exaltation

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation. But it will be a great while after you have passed through the veil [died] before you will have learned them. It is not all to be comprehended in this world; it will be a great work to learn our salvation and exaltation even beyond the grave” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 268).

Joseph Smith taught: “It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God. ... He was once a man like us; ... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 345–46).

Our Heavenly Father knows our trials, our weaknesses, and our sins. He has compassion and mercy on us. He wants us to succeed even as He did.

← →

[Click here to view on LDS website](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/lesson/47)

GOD / ANGELS / MEN ARE THE SAME SPECIES

- “Gods, angels and men are all of **one species, one race, one great family**, widely diffused among the planetary systems, as colonies, kingdoms, nations, etc.” (Parley P. Pratt, *Key to Science of Theology*, 33)
- For example, “The Prophet Joseph Smith clearly identifies both **Adam** and **Michael** as one and **the same person**, an angel...” (Petersen, “Adam, the Archangel,” right)



www.churchofjesuschrist

Adam, the Archangel

Indeed, Adam was very special and very important. Before coming into mortality, he was known as Michael. The Prophet Joseph Smith clearly identifies both Adam and Michael as one and the same person, an angel, the chief angel, or archangel, of heaven, the special servant of God and Christ.

[Click here to view on LDS website](#)



SATAN'S BATTLE FOR POWER

- All people **pre-existed as spirits** in the presence of God. God proposed a **plan of salvation** where these spirits could progress to **become a god** like himself. This plan involved giving men **free-will**.
- But **Lucifer**, one of Jesus's spirit brothers, proposed a rival plan which didn't involve free will. God **rejected Lucifer's plan** and there was war in heaven. $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the spirits accepted the plan, came to earth, and **received a physical body**. $\frac{1}{3}$ rd led by Satan rejected it and were punished by not receiving physical bodies.

JESUS CHRIST, OUR CHOSEN LEADER AND SAVIOR

Chapter 3

A Savior and Leader Was Needed

When the plan for our salvation was presented to us in the spirit world, we were so happy that we shouted for joy (see Job 38:7).

We understood that we would have to leave our heavenly home for a time. We would not live in the presence of our heavenly parents. While we were away from them, all of us would sin and some of us would lose our way. Our Heavenly Father knew and loved each one of us. He knew we would need help, so he planned a way to help us.

We needed a Savior to pay for our sins and teach us how to return to our Heavenly Father. Our Father said, “Whom shall I send?” (Abraham 3:27). Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, “Here am I, send me” (Abraham 3:27).

Jesus was willing to come to the earth, give his life for us, and take upon himself our sins. He, like our Heavenly Father, wanted us to choose whether we would obey Heavenly Father’s commandments. He knew we must be free to choose in order to prove ourselves worthy of exaltation. Jesus said, “Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever” (Moses 4:2).

Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, “Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor” (Moses 4:1). Satan wanted to force us all to do his will. Under his plan, we would not be allowed to choose. He would take away the freedom of choice that our Father had given us. Satan wanted to have all the honor for our salvation.

Discussion

- Who is our leader and Savior?
- Who besides Jesus wanted to be our leader?

Jesus Christ Became Our Chosen Leader and Savior

After hearing both sons speak, Heavenly Father said, “I will send the first” (Abraham 3:27).

Jesus Christ was chosen and ordained to be our Savior. Many scriptures tell about this. One scripture tells us that long before Jesus was born, he appeared to the brother of Jared, a Book of Mormon prophet, and said: “Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. . . . In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name” (Ether 3:14).

When Jesus lived on earth, he taught: “I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. . . . And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:38, 40).

Discussion

- Ask each person to tell something about Jesus.

The War in Heaven

Because our Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Satan became angry and rebelled. There was war in heaven. Satan and his followers fought against Jesus and his followers.



The Plan for Our Progression

When we lived with our Heavenly Father, He explained a plan for our progression. We could become like Him, an exalted being. The plan required that we be separated from Him and come to earth. This separation was necessary to prove whether we would obey our Father's commandments even though we were no longer in His presence. The plan provided that when earth life ended, we would be judged and rewarded according to the degree of our faith and obedience.

From the scriptures we learn that there are three kingdoms of glory in heaven. The Apostle Paul mentioned that he knew a man who was "caught up to the third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:2). Paul named two of the kingdoms in heaven: the celestial and the terrestrial (see 1 Corinthians 15:40–42). The celestial is the highest, and the terrestrial is second. Through latter-day revelation we learn that the third kingdom is the telestial kingdom (see D&C 76:81). We also learn that there are three heavens or degrees within the celestial kingdom (see D&C 131:1).

Exaltation

- What is exaltation?

Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life God lives. He lives in great glory. He is perfect. He possesses all knowledge and all wisdom. He is the Father of spirit children. He is a creator. We can become like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation.

If we prove faithful to the Lord, we will live in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom of heaven. We will become exalted, to live with our Heavenly Father in eternal families. Exaltation is the greatest gift that Heavenly Father can give His children (see D&C

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HUMAN EXALTATION

aka, eternal progression

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION

Requirements for Exaltation

The time to fulfill the requirements for exaltation is now (see [Alma 34:32–34](#)). President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel and all its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the Lord has offered; and walk in the light and the understanding of the truth; and ‘live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God’” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:43).

To be exalted, we first must place our faith in Jesus Christ and then endure in that faith to the end of our lives. Our faith in Him must be such that we repent of our sins and obey His commandments.

He commands us all to receive certain ordinances:

1. We must be baptized.
2. We must receive the laying on of hands to be confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ and to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
3. Brethren must receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and magnify their callings in the priesthood.
4. We must receive the temple endowment.
5. We must be married for eternity, either in this life or in the next.

In addition to receiving the required ordinances, the Lord commands all of us to:

1. Love God and our neighbors.
2. Keep the commandments.
3. Repent of our wrongdoings.
4. Search out our kindred dead and receive the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.
5. Attend our Church meetings as regularly as possible so we can renew our baptismal covenants by partaking of the sacrament.
6. Love our family members and strengthen them in the ways of the Lord.
7. Have family and individual prayers every day.
8. Teach the gospel to others by word and example.
9. Study the scriptures.
10. Listen to and obey the inspired words of the prophets of the Lord.

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Articles of Faith 1

8 We believe the ^a**Bible** to be the ^b**word** of God as far as it is translated ^c**correctly**; we also believe the ^d**Book of Mormon** to be the word of God.

SCRIPTURE

- Authoritative LDS scripture includes:
 - **Book of Mormon** (Jesus comes to America).
 - **Doctrines and Covenants** (important revelations mainly from Smith; most Mormon doctrine from this).
 - **Pearl of Great Price** (official history of Mormon church)
 - **Journal of Discourses** (sermons by early leaders)
- They also believe in **the Bible** “as far as it is translated correctly”.
- LDS believe in an **open canon** (they can still receive revelation).
- They believe the **United States Constitution** is a divinely inspired document.

HEAVEN

- **Celestial Kingdom** (highest)
 - Only for those who are exalted (become a god)
 - Can't enter without permission from Smith
- **Terrestrial Kingdom**
 - Members of LDS church who did not achieve exaltation.
- **Telestial Kingdom** (lowest)
 - All other people who reject the LDS gospel.
- **Perdition**
 - Only Satan, demons & apostatized Mormons go to hell

Kingdoms of Glory

Overview

Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected. After we are resurrected, we will stand before the Lord to be judged according to our desires and actions. Each of us will accordingly receive an eternal dwelling place in a specific kingdom of glory. The Lord taught this principle when He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions" ([John 14:2](#)).

There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom. The glory we inherit will depend on the depth of our conversion, expressed by our obedience to the Lord's commandments. It will depend on the manner in which we have "received the testimony of Jesus" ([Doctrine and Covenants 76:51](#); see also [Doctrine and Covenants 76:74, 79, 101](#)).

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MORMON LIFE

The background image shows two young men in Mormon attire. The man on the left is standing, wearing a white shirt, a green and black striped tie, and dark trousers. He has a name tag that reads 'ELDER MORGAN' and is holding a blue book. The man on the right is sitting on a bicycle, wearing a white shirt, a black and white striped tie, and khaki pants. He also has a name tag that reads 'ELDER MORGAN' and is holding a blue book. Both men are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green field with trees.

- LDS are encouraged to study scriptures, pray daily, fast regularly, attend Sunday worship services, participate in church activities on weekdays, and refrain from work on Sundays. Church leaders may work 10 to 15 hours a week in unpaid church service. They're required to tithe 10%. They are expected to serve a 2-year full-time proselytizing mission. They do not choose where and must fund their own mission.
- They emphasize honesty, integrity, and obedience. Sex outside of married is considered a serious sin. They wear religious undergarments to remind them of covenants and encourage them to dress modestly. Tattoos and body piercings are also discouraged (women may have a single pair of earrings). They abstain from tobacco, alcohol, coffee, and tea. They're encouraged to keep 1 year's worth of food, supplies, and finances.

PERSONAL REVELATION

- Many LDS feel **God talks to them** in their hearts and minds through the Holy Ghost.
- They are encouraged to **seek personal revelation** for themselves and their family.



PRIESTHOODS

The Priesthood Is on the Earth Today

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is governed by the priesthood. The priesthood, which is always associated with God's work, "continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years" (D&C 84:17). It is upon the earth today. Men young and old are baptized into the Church, and when they are judged worthy they are ordained to the priesthood. They are given the authority to act for the Lord and do His work on the earth.

Two Divisions of Priesthood

- How did the Melchizedek and Aaronic Priesthoods get their names?

The priesthood is divided into two parts: the Melchizedek Priesthood and the Aaronic Priesthood (see D&C 107:1). "The

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Aaronic Priesthood

Teacher (males 14+)

- Help Church members live the commandments
- Serve as home teachers
- Visit the homes of Church members
- Prepare the bread and water for the sacrament service

Priest (16+)

- Can baptize
- Administer sacraments
- Can take charge when no Melchizedek Priesthood holder present

Bishop

- Presides over Aaronic Priesthood in a ward (congregation).

Melchizedek Priesthood

Elder

- Teach, expound, exhort, baptize, and watch over the Church
- Bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost
- Administer to the sick

High Priest

- Officiate in the Church

Patriarch

- Give patriarchal blessings to members of the Church

Seventy

- Regulate Church under the direction of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Apostle

- Members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- Each is given all the keys of the kingdom of God on earth, but only the senior Apostle, who is President of the Church, actively exercises all of the keys.

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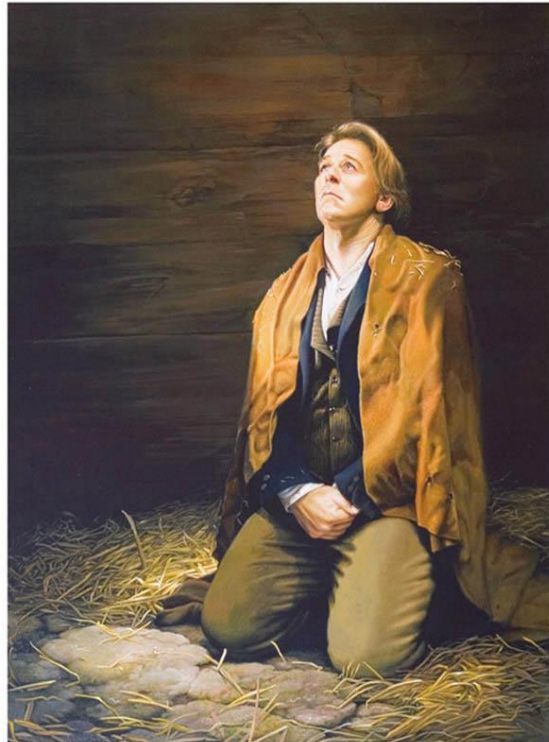
Tips

4 RESPONSES



QUESTIONABLE FOUNDER

Joseph Smith was arrested **30 to 42 times** during his life. He was finally killed in jail while awaiting trial.



Warrant date	Charge	Outcome
March 20, 1826	Disorderly person and “an imposter.” “...he pretended to tell by looking at this stone where coined money was buried...”	Disputed with one report saying: “...the Court find the Defendant guilty.”
June 1830	Disorderly person	Not guilty
June 1830	Disorderly person	Not guilty
February 1837	Illegal banking	Guilty (tried in absentia), each fined \$1000
June 1837	Conspiracy to murder Grandison Newell	Charges dismissed
January 1838	Banking fraud	Fled from Ohio to Missouri
August 10, 1838	Threatening Judge Adam Black	Grand jury hearing scheduled but Smith fled to Illinois
November 12, 1838	Treason against Missouri	Escaped custody and fled from Missouri to Illinois
August 1842	Conspiracy to murder Gov. Boggs	In hiding from Aug 10 to Dec 30; surrendered and was freed by US District Court on Jan 2, 1843
June 6, 1843	Treason against Missouri	Illinois courts rejected Missouri's requests for extradition
May 1844	Perjury, fornication and adultery	Trial scheduled; killed while awaiting trial
June 11, 1844	Inciting a riot	Granted \$500 bail; killed while awaiting trial
June 24, 1844	Treason against Illinois	Killed while awaiting trial

PLAGIARISM

Joseph Smith, said he translated the Book of Mormon word for word by looking through a seer stone. Yet when we compare many passages to the 1611 King James Version of the Bible...

- He produced the same words in the same order from two original languages ("Reformed Egyptian" v. Greek).
- Punctuation is the same (, ; : . ?). There is no punctuation in the original Greek or Hebrew.
- Italicized words are supplied in the KJV but are also in Joseph Smith's version (v. 4, 13, 14, 18).
- Right at point where "the scribes" are mentioned (bottom right), the plagiarism cuts out because Jesus was supposed to be North America.
- 1,023 of 6,064 verses (15.5%) are like this (based on this list).

3 Nephi 14:2-27 1830 Book of Mormon

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what **judgement** ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; **and** behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. Ask, and it shall be given **unto** you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **for** every one that **asketh**, receiveth; and he that **seeketh**, findeth; and to him that **knocketh**, it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, **whom**, if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye **then** being **evil** know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the **straight gate**; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **because**, **straight** is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their **fruits**: Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil **fruit**.— A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth forth good **fruit**, is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore**, by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto **me** Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **Therefore**, **whoso** heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **and** the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: **and** the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7 1611 King James Version

1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what **judgment** ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; **and**, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. Ask, and it shall be given **unto** you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **For** every one that **asketh** receiveth; and he that **seeketh** findeth; and to him that **knocketh** it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, **whom** if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye **then**, being **evil**, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the **strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **Because** **strait** is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their **fruits**. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil **fruit**. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither **can** a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth forth good **fruit** is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore** by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto **me**, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **Therefore** **whosoever** heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **And** the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: **And** the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. **And it came to pass**, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.



ZERO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPPORT

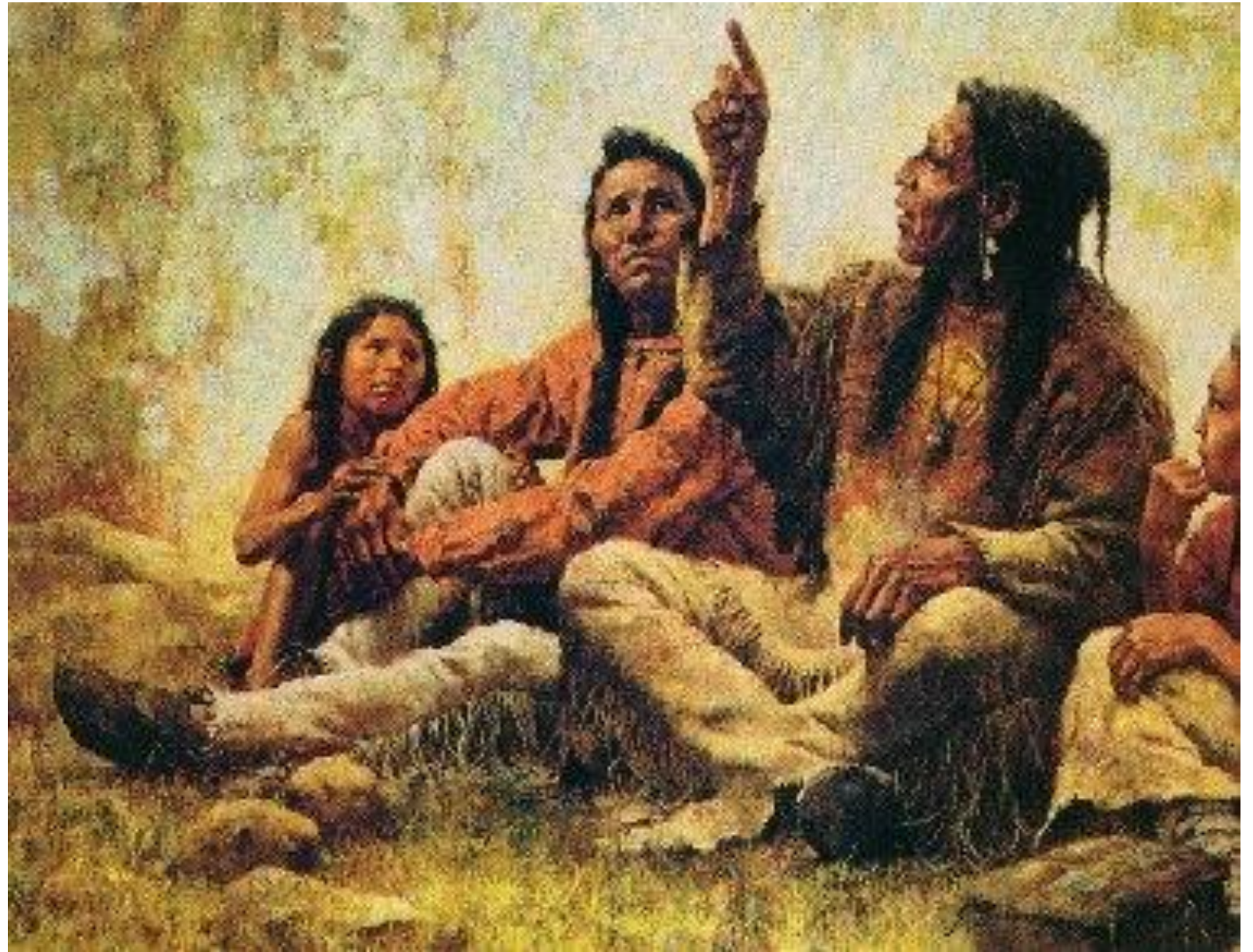
- “What I would say to you is there is **no archaeological proof** of the Book of Mormon. You can look all you want. And there’s been a lot of speculation about it. There have been books written by Mormon scholars saying that ‘this event took place here’ or ‘this event took place here.’ But that’s entirely speculative. **There is absolutely no archaeological evidence that you can tie directly to events that took place.**”

David Johnson,
BYU Professor of Anthropology,
1998

[Click here to view source](#)

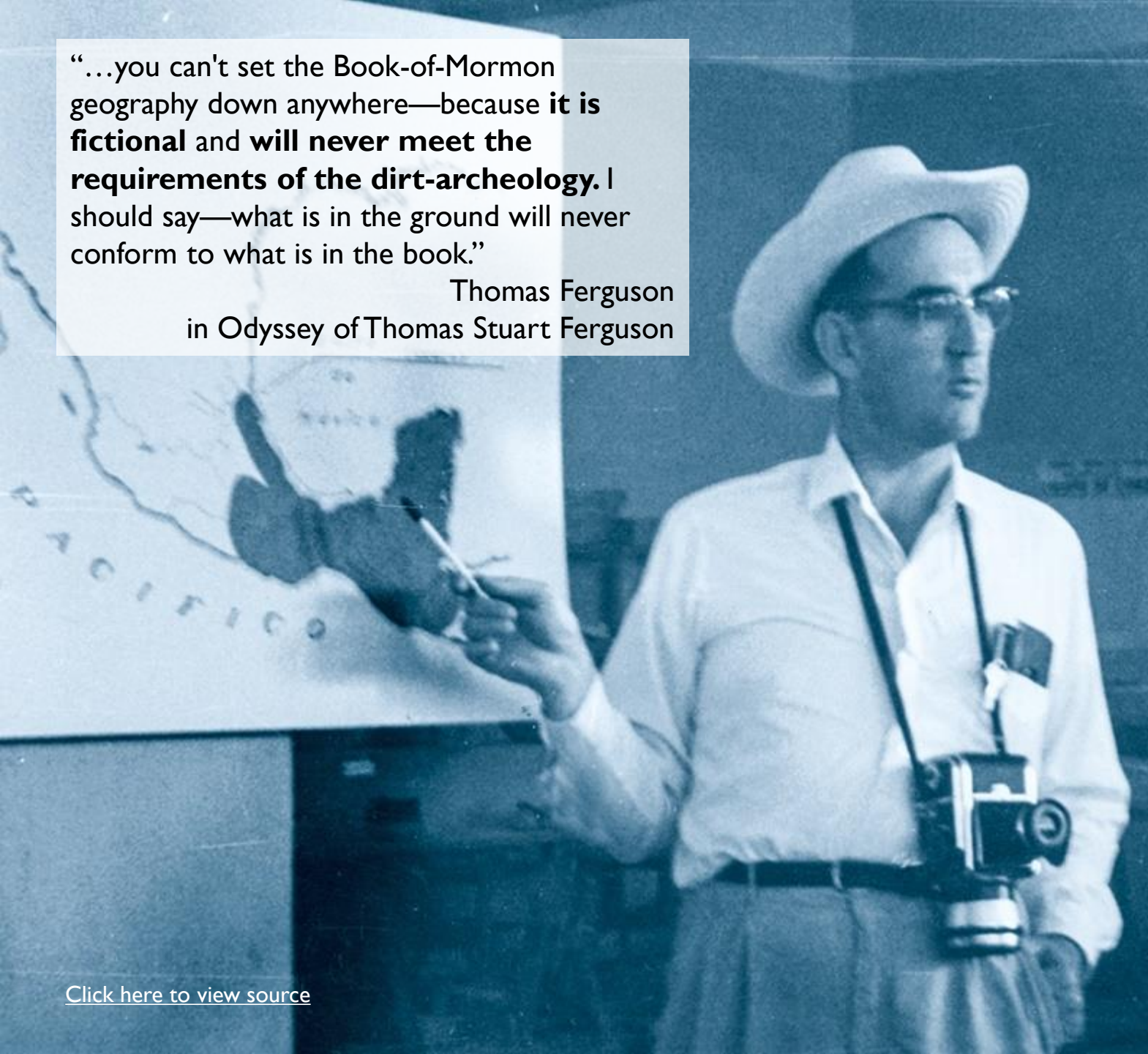
ORIGIN OF NATIVE AMERICANS

- DNA studies indicate **Native Americans are not from Jerusalem** as Book of Mormon claims.
- They are from Australia, Mongolia and Siberia.



“...you can't set the Book-of-Mormon geography down anywhere—because **it is fictional** and **will never meet the requirements of the dirt-archeology**. I should say—what is in the ground will never conform to what is in the book.”

Thomas Ferguson
in Odyssey of Thomas Stuart Ferguson



BYU ARCHAEOLOGIST QUITS CHURCH

- Thomas Ferguson was **president** of the New World Archaeology Foundation at Brigham Young University.
- He was given funds by the LDS Church to **study Ancient America** and **find evidence** supporting the Book of Mormon.
- He found **no evidence**, concluded the Book of Mormon was fiction, and quit the church.

BIBLICAL REFUTATIONS

- **The Bible actually warns against Mormonism!**

Joseph said he received another gospel from an angel from heaven. But the Bible warns us receiving a different gospel—even if an angel were to preach it! ...

*“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel**, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and **want to pervert the gospel of Christ.** **But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.***

*As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you **than what you have received**, let him be accursed.”*
(Galatians 1:6-9)



BIBLICAL REFUTATIONS

- **Bible denies polytheism.**

- 2 Samuel 7:22 - There is only one God.
- 1 Kings 8:60 – Same.
- John 17:3 – Same.
- Many others.

- **Bible says salvation is only by faith in Christ.**

- John 3:16–18: emphasizes whoever believes in him is saved.
- Romans 3:20–23: by works of the law no one will be justified in his sight.
- Gal 1:8-9: if an angel preached different gospel from Paul they were to be anathematized (e.g., as the supposed Moroni angel did).

BIBLICAL REFUTATIONS

■ **Priesthood & Temple services.**

- Heb. 10:14 - Jesus fulfilled priesthood by his one perfect sacrifice.
- Col. 2:16-17: Bible says OT regulations were fulfilled in Christ.
- 1 Tim 2:5: Jesus is the only mediator between God and men.

■ **Mormonism Virgin Birth doesn't match Bible.**

- Luke 1:35: it's clear that the Holy Spirit would overshadow Mary.
- Matt. 1:20: the baby was conceived "from the Holy Spirit" and not physical, sexual union.
- John 4:24: God the Father is spirit (non-material) and does not have a physical body
- This is a denial of Trinity in general.

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TIPS FOR SHARING

- Don't assume! Don't assume your LDS friend knows all the teachings of their church. Don't assume your LDS friend believes everything their church teaches. Not all LDS think alike. Refer or quote the church and its leaders.
- Define terms. LDS will use the same words, but they assign different meanings. As them to define their words.
- Leave them with a desire to talk again! Be gentle and kind. Don't be rude and arrogant. Develop a relationship.
- Be bold. LDS view boldness as evidence of commitment and authority.
- Stick to the KJV, because that's the only version LDS see as authoritative.
- Use your personal testimony (emphasize grace and relationship).



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