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OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

One of the giants in the ministry to the cults, Dick Baer, went home to be with the Lord this past Month. He was one of the ex-Mormons who starred in the movie, "The God Makers", along with Ed Decker. Dick had one of the most effective presentations on Mormonism that I have ever seen. He presented it in many locations, including Salt Lake City.

I remember an amusing story he shared with us many years ago. After Dick found the Lord as his Savior (causing him to leave Mormonism), it cost him the loss of his wife and family. After one of his presentations in Salt Lake City, his ex-wife came down the aisle, approached Dick and said, "Don't you dare say, I told you so." She had become a Christian and had left Mormonism. What a mighty miracle!

Dick was our big "teddy Baer" and he will be sorely missed but we're happy he is now with the Lord that he loved so much!

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

MORMONISM'S "BLOOD ATONEMENT" DOCTRINE

When I was still a Mormon (about 38 years ago), a Christian friend gave me a cassette tape by the late Dr. Walter Martin, a well-known and respected Christian apologist. I was shocked by much of what he

shared on this tape but hearing about Mormonism's blood atonement doctrine was at the top of the "shock" list. Later this Christian friend took me to a "Mormon Institute" where I was able to verify the references Dr. Martin gave.

In the beginning, Brigham Young denied that such a doctrine was ever taught (see "History of the Church", Vol.7, pp 366-367). However, when the Mormons arrived in Utah, the blood atonement doctrine was openly taught. Brigham Young, the second President of the Church, gave this sermon:

*"There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come, and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to **have their blood spilt** upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as **an offering for their sins**; and the smoking incense would **atone** for their sins, whereas, if such is not the case, they will stick to them and remain upon them in the spirit world.*

*"I know, when you hear my brethren telling about **cutting people off from the earth**, that you consider it is strong doctrine, but it is to save them, not to destroy them...And furthermore, I know that there are transgressors, who, if they knew themselves, and the **only condition** upon which they can obtain forgiveness, would **beg of their brethren to shed their blood**, that the smoke thereof might ascend to God as an offering to appease the wrath that is kindled against them, and that the law might have its course. I will say further, **I have had men come to me and offer their lives to atone for their sins.***

*“It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, yet men can commit **sins which it can never remit**. As it was in ancient days, so it is in our day; and though the principles are taught publicly from this stand, still the people do not understand them; yet the law is precisely the same. There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering upon an altar, as in ancient days; and there are sins that the blood of a lamb, or a calf, or of turtle doves, cannot remit, but **they must be atoned for by the blood of the man**. This is the reason why men talk to you as they do from this stand; they understand the doctrine and throw out a few words about it. **You have been taught that doctrine**, but you do not understand it.”* (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.4, pp 53-54; also published in the “Deseret News”, 1856, p.235 - my emphasis).

So what were some of the dastardly sins that men committed which required their *own* blood to be shed? Well, just to *name a few* – adultery (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.3, p 247); marriage to an African (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.10, p.110); apostasy (“Journal of Discourses” Vol.1, p.83 & Vol.4, pp 219-220); and covenant breaking (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.4, p.375).

It is surprising to me that so few Mormons know about this abominable doctrine their beloved prophet, Brigham Young, introduced to his people. Many who have heard about it believe it was never actually practiced, however, evidence to the contrary shows that many people in early Utah did lose their lives because of this doctrine. If interested, the Tanners have documented this fact in their book, “The Mormon Kingdom, Vol.2” - (the Tanners web site is: www.utlm.org where this book can be ordered).

Another reference is found in the “Confessions of John D. Lee” – *“The most deadly sin among the people was adultery, and **many men were killed in Utah for that crime**.”* (photomechanical reprint of 1880 ed, pp. 282-283, my emphasis). Gustive O. Larson, Professor of Church History at the Brigham Young University also admits that blood atonement was actually practiced. (See Utah Historical Quarterly, January 1958, p 62, footnote 39).

Only in Mormonism could they get it so wrong! Obviously, belief that your own blood could pay the penalty for your sins shows a complete ignorance of God’s plan of salvation and a complete ignorance of the Bible as well. To think a Mormon could know about this abominable doctrine and remain a Mormon is mind-boggling. For those Mormons who don’t know about it, it is my prayer that they will (1) be enlightened as I was and have their names removed from LDS Church membership and (2) turn to the Real Jesus who shed **His** sinless blood on their behalf as a free gift: *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God.*” (Eph.2:8-9 NAS)

“I DON’T GET IT?”

It is difficult for Christians to comprehend how Mormons could believe such obviously false and absurd doctrine and theology espoused by their leaders; especially when the Bible is very clear on who we are, why we are here, where we came from, God’s plan of salvation, etc. I believe the answer to this dilemma is found in 2 Cor.3:14-16: *“But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the **same veil remains unlifted because it is removed in Christ**. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but **whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**”* (NAS)

The Apostle Paul was referencing the Jews in the above verse but it is the same for Jew and Gentile. Everyone was spiritually blind at one time, but when one “turns to the Lord” and receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, **God** removes the veil (of course Mormons claim they have Jesus but their Jesus is a false one, the “another Jesus” spoken of in 2 Cor.11:4).

I believe most Christians can remember what it was like before they were born-again. Once the veil was removed, spiritual things became much clearer and their lives were drastically changed. God gave us His Spirit (Joel 2:28-29, 1 John 3:24, 1 John 4:13, 1 Th.4:8) and we were then able to spiritually appraise the things of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14). Sadly, until a Mormon turns to the Christ of the Bible, they will be subject to the lies of the enemy and spiritual blindness.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (FROM LDS LEADERS)

*“It is helpful for us to remember that God, angels, spirits, and men are **all of the same species in different stages of development and in various degrees of righteousness.**”* (Sterling W. Sill, of the First Quorum of the Seventy, “LDS Conference Report”, October 1969, p.18, my emphasis)

THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

The following article is taken from “The Friends Of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc.”:

Contrary to what some people think, the concept of priesthood did not originate with Israel. In the patriarchal period, the male head of each household functioned as a mediating priest on behalf of his family. Job (Job 1:5), Noah (Gen.8:20), Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all erected altars and sacrificed animals to God.

After God delivered Israel from Egypt, He wanted to make the nation a kingdom of priests with direct access to Him (Ex.19:4-6). But Israel sinned, breaking the covenant it had made with God at Mount Sinai (v.5), and forfeiting the privilege of becoming a kingdom of priests.

That forfeiture birthed the Aaronic priesthood, a system that grew more corrupt with age until it even demanded the crucifixion of its own Messiah. The Aaronic priesthood was established when God commanded Moses to take his brother, Aaron, and Aaron’s sons from the tribe of Levi and designate them as priests (28:1)...In the decades to follow, the priesthood was passed down through Aaron’s family. Over time, however, the priesthood grew corrupt and priests often abused their calling and position...By the time Jesus began ministering on Earth, the priesthood was beyond redemption...

In Old Testament times, only the Aaronic priests and, of course, Moses enjoyed direct access into the presence of God...The Bible calls Jesus alone our “great High

Priest” (Heb.4:14) who not only sympathizes with us and intercedes for us but who loves us so much He actually offered Himself as the final sacrifice for sin. Christ’s priesthood supersedes the Aaronic priesthood and is superior to it in every way (5:1-10:25).

The Aaronic priesthood was inherited and transmitted to many sons down through the centuries. Like Melchizedek, Jesus neither inherited His kingly priesthood nor transmitted it to successors. As High Priest, Jesus does not continually offer sacrifices for people’s sins, like the Aaronic priest, “for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself” (Heb.7:27). Christ is sinless, yet He offered Himself, once for all, as the perfect, unblemished blood sacrifice to expiate sins....

*The importance of Jesus Christ’s high priesthood cannot be underestimated or overstated. The book of Hebrews instructs believers to come directly to God’s throne of grace through Jesus Christ their advocate and present their requests. The admonition is to come boldly before God to obtain mercy and grace (Heb.4:14-16). No need for a temple. No need for a human priest. No need for a blood sacrifice. **Jesus is all we need.** (“Israel My Glory” magazine, pp.22-25)*

What a different concept Christians and Messianic Jews have compared to the Mormon concept of the Aaronic Priesthood. The late Mormon Apostle, Bruce R. McConkie tells us: “John the Baptist, as a resurrected personage, came to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on the 15th of May, 1829, and made the first conferral of Levitical Priesthood in this dispensation. (D. & C. 13; 27:8). Since then, as the needs of the ministry warranted, the offices of bishop, priest, teacher, and deacon, have all been revealed as part of this Aaronic ministry.” (“Mormon Doctrine”, pp 10-11)

Yes, Mormons believe that holding the priesthood (Aaronic and Melchizedek) is what makes them “the only true church” because it gives them the “power and authority” to act for God. However, the above article, as well as the book of Hebrews in the Bible reveals their error. Please encourage your Mormon acquaintances to prayerfully read (or reread) the book of Hebrews, especially chapters 5 through 10, its message is so clear!

PRE-EXISTENCE

Very little of Mormonism's main doctrine or theology can be found in the Bible. However, this does not stop them from taking verses out of context and trying to make them fit their false beliefs. We are told that we should always "...know how you should respond to each person" (Col.4:6), so let's examine their doctrine of pre-existence and see how to "respond".

For those of you not familiar with Mormon theology, this is their teaching that in a pre-earth life, Jesus, Lucifer, and all the rest of us were literally born as **spirit** children to God and one of his wives ("Gospel Through the Ages", pp.96-99; "Mormon Doctrine" 1966, p.589; "The Seer", p.172, etc.). This is, of course, illogical to say the least. Genesis 1 (vs.11-12, 24-25, etc.), tells us that like kinds beget like kinds. Yet Mormons believe God and his wives have bodies of flesh and bones, so we might start by asking them why these **fleshly** personages procreate **spirit** children? Not wanting to deal with this problem, Mormons will try and counter by pointing to several scriptures they believe will support their belief.

One of their favorites is found in Jer.1:5: "*Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nation*". However, this passage is not referring to man's pre-existence, but rather to the foreknowledge of God. As an all-knowing Being (Ps.139, 147:5, Heb.4:13), God sovereignly "knew" Jeremiah before he existed, but notice it doesn't say anything about Jeremiah knowing God. Also, it is noteworthy that this same book teaches that God **made** (created), **not procreated** man, the same as He did the earth and beasts (Jer.27:5).

Another scripture Mormons misuse is Acts 17:28: "*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also his offspring.*" But we are His "offspring" only in the sense that all of mankind was created by Him (Gen.2:7). Malachi 2:10 confirms this: "*Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?*". Also notice that in Acts 17:28, Luke was merely quoting one of "your own [pagan] poets".

One last scripture we will examine is found in Hebrews 12:9: "*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the **Father of spirits**, and live?*" Mormons say that this proves their point. But "Father of spirits" is merely referring to a person's spiritual rebirth, of being "born again" (John 3:3, 7), through "faith in Christ" (Gal.3:26). We become His children at conversion (John 1:12) through **adoption** (Eph.1:5, Gal.4:5).

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that **only** Christ pre-existed (John 8:23, John 3:31). There is a clear dichotomy between the ones from earth and the One from heaven: "*Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from Heaven.*" (1 Cor.15:46-47). You might also want to ask your Mormon friends for a single Bible reference for a Heavenly Mother or for God having wives that birth "spirit" children.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our August 9th meeting will be "Movie Night, and we will be showing "THE CULT EXPLOSION". It contains testimonies of ex-cult leaders – People's Temple, Worldwide Church of God, Moonies, Hare Krishna, Christian Science, Scientology, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, T.M., Black Muslims, Unity and the Manson Family.

We will be serving popcorn and drinks. Please bring someone with you for this free movie so they will be able to understand the deception of the cults. The address is 671 N. Poplar St., in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY - THANK YOU

