

Ex-Mormons for

JESUS

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NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH/APRIL 2017

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



FROM CHAR'S DESK

It seems we have to find a new way to reach the dear Mormon people. We recently put an ad in the paper, "Mormonism Christian or Cult?" but had very little response as most people do not take the newspaper anymore. We have a table at the Orange Village Mall but so far, we have only had one Mormon approach us. Most of the people that talk to us are Christians. Our Center is no longer downtown Orange so many people think we no longer exist. How are we going to share the good news with Mormons that think they already have the "good news", if we aren't able to talk to them?

As it says in the Bible, "*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" (Rom.10:14,15). My heart aches to share this gospel of peace with the precious LDS people. In this computer age, people no longer communicate with each other the way they used to...face to face. Please pray with us for the dear Lord to show us how we can reach them.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN JOSEPH SMITH AND THE BOOK OF MORMON

It is recorded in Mormon scripture that the Book of Mormon contains the "fullness" of the gospel (D&C 20:8-9, 27:5, 42:12), however, words can be cheap. With just a little research, one can see that the Book of Mormon contains very little Mormon doctrine or theology and to make matters worse, it often contradicts Joseph Smith's own teachings. Following are just a few examples:

BOM: "*And this I know, because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell...*" (Alma 34:36)

SMITH: "*John 14:23 – The appearing of the Father and the Son, in that verse, is a personal appearance; and the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man's heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false.*" (D. & C. 130:3)

BOM: "*...And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, **which is one God**, without end. Amen.*" (2 Nephi 31:21, my emphasis)

SMITH: "*Many men say there is one God; the Father, the son and Holy Ghost are only one God...All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God—he would be a giant or a monster.*" ("Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith", p.372).

BOM: *“For behold, by the power of his word man came upon the face of the earth, which earth was created by the power of his word. Wherefore, if God being able to speak and the world was, and to speak and man was created...”* (Jacob 4:9)

SMITH: *“Now I ask all who will hear me, why the learned men who are preaching salvation, say that God created the heavens and earth out of nothing? The reason is, that they are unlearned in the things of God...Now, the word create came from the word baurau, which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship.”* (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.350)

BOM: *“Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.”* (Jacob 2:24, also see Jacob 3:5)

SMITH: *“David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants...and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me.”* (D. & C. 132:38, also see 132:1 where it says the Lord “justified” David & Solomon for “having many wives and concubines”)

BOM: *“For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing.”* (Mormon 9:9, also see Mosiah 3:5, 3 Nep.24:6, Moroni 8:18)

SMITH: *“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see.”* (“Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith”, p.3435)

To find that Mormonism’s doctrine and theology is absent from the BOM is bad enough, but then to see that its founder and leader contradicts many of the teachings that are there should be sufficient for them to want to dispose of it. Yet the LDS church goes to great lengths and expense to promote it. It seems obvious that this piece of false scripture mainly serves as a proselytizing tool aimed at the uninformed and unsuspecting and sadly, in that function it has been quite successful!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(From LDS Leaders)

“If the various books that enter into the collection Called the Book of Mormon be carefully compared with each other, there will be found nothing contradictory in history, in prophecy, or in doctrine...If we compare the historical, prophetic, and doctrinal parts of the Book of Mormon with the great truth of science and nature, we find no contradictions—no absurdities—nothing unreasonable. The most perfect harmony therefore exists between the great truths revealed in the Book of Mormon and all other known truths, whether religious, historical, or scientific.” (Early LDS Apostle Orson Pratt, (as quoted by James E. Talmage in “The Articles of Faith”, 1982, p.505)

A COMPARISON

(JOSEPH SMITH AND MUHAMMAD)

Mormons are held captive by the story of Joseph Smith, after all, how could a young, uneducated boy write a book such as the Book of Mormon without divine guidance? Eric Johnson, of Mormonism Research Ministry (mrm.org), has written a little booklet entitled “Joseph Smith & Muhammad”. As Eric says, while the two faiths, Mormonism and Islam, are worlds apart in their doctrines, practices, and the places where they thrive, a number of other similarities make Ecclesiastes 1:9 come to mind: *“...there is nothing new under the sun.”* While Eric shared twenty similarities, I will share just a few as follows –

Muhammad claimed that the angel Gabriel appeared to him, revealing the words that later became the holy Islamic scripture known as the Qur’an. Joseph Smith claimed that he was visited by God the Father and Jesus as well as by the angel Moroni, who later led Smith to ancient plates made of gold which he translated into the Book of Mormon.

Both sanctioned and practiced polygamy. Both claimed to restore true religious worship. Both are works-based. Both deny the Trinity. Both used the Bible yet claimed it had corrupt texts. Both taught that heaven will be filled with many physical pleasures, including sex. Both came from poor families with little education. Both

claimed that the Bible prophesied their own appearances on earth.

Down through the centuries, millions of deceived people have followed false prophets. All it takes is a charming, charismatic leader with a remarkable story of divine beings supposedly showing them a new (true) way. In the Bible, Timothy warned about this: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”* (2 Tim.4:3-4 NAS)

How much safer and wiser it would be to know the Bible and follow what it says rather than a mere man: *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”* (1 John 4:1 NAS). Yes, the Bible gives many warnings and ways to **test** whether something (or someone) is of God or not. Let us pray that the deceived, past, present and future, will turn to God’s word alone for their guidance and direction.

Note: Documentation for the above similarities is found in the booklet “Joseph Smith & Muhammad” by Eric Johnson (mrm.org).

OVER 4,000 WORD CHANGES

Few Mormons are aware of the thousands of word changes that have been made in Mormon scriptures (Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price) since the first editions. However, for this article I will just deal with a few of the Book of Mormon changes.

According to the “History of the Church”, Joseph Smith claimed that when he and the witnesses went to pray about the Book of Mormon, a voice spoke from heaven saying: *“These plates have been revealed by the power of God, and they have **been translated by the power of God. The translation of them which you have seen is correct, and I command you to bear record of what you***

now see and hear.” (Vol.1, p.55, my emphasis)

With such a claim, we would expect to see the Book of Mormon free of changes. However, a close examination reveals that over 4000 word changes, including doctrinal changes, have been made since the first 1830 Edition. The following four changes compares the 1830 edition with all modern ones regarding the Godhead:

“Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God...” (1830 Edition, p.25)

“Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of THE SON OF God...” (1 Nephi 11:18)

“...the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father and the Savior of the world...” (1830 Edition, p.32)

“...the Lamb of God is THE SON OF the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world...” (1 Nephi 13:40)

“...Behold the Lamb of God, yea even the Eternal Father” (1830 Edition, p.25)

“...Behold the Lamb of God, yea even THE SON OF the Eternal Father” (1 Nephi 11:21)

“...The Everlasting God, was judged of the world...” (1830 Edition, p.26)

“...THE SON OF the everlasting God was judged of the world...” (1 Nephi 11:32)

Probably no Mormon scripture has been changed more times than the prophecy concerning the Lamanites (Indians) in 2 Nephi 30:6. Mormonism has consistently taught a dark skin is a sign of God’s displeasure (see 2 Nephi 5:21, Alma 3:6, 1 Nephi 12:23). However, with the change that allowed the Negroes to receive the Mormon Priesthood in 1978, Mormon leaders have attempted to cover up this embarrassing teaching concerning skin color –

“...many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a WHITE and a delightful people.” (1830 Edition, p.117)

“...PURE and delightful people.” (1840 Edition)

“...WHITE and delightful people.” (All later Editions until 1981)

“...PURE and delightful people.” (1981 Edition, 2 Nephi 30:6)

The many contradictions and changes that Joseph Smith had to make reveal that he did not have full blown Mormonism down pat in his early years. As his doctrine and theology progressed, changes and cover-ups had to be made. This is only a few examples of the many changes in the Book of Mormon but we hope you will share this information with your Mormon acquaintances in hopes that they will come to know that their “prophet”, Joseph Smith, was a fraud and in turn, seek the truth (John 14:6).

NOTE: Portions of the above was taken from the tract, “Over 8400 Word Changes in Mormon Scriptures”, by Challenge Ministries (www.challengemin.org). If you are interested, please contact us to receive a free copy of this tract (a small donation to cover postage would be appreciated).

ORANGE VILLAGE MALL

Two of our Ex-Mormons For Jesus workers hosted our table at the mall again this month. For those of you who live in the area, stop by and see us on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Following is some of the activity we encountered this month:

“A lady came by and took 3 of our tracts, “God of Mormonism”, Jesus of Mormonism”, and the brochure that tells about our ministry.”

“Another family came by and we shared how to witness to Mormon Missionaries at your door. They were Christians.”

“We talked to a young man in his 20's about Jesus and His gospel and we gave him a Bible - he was appreciative.”

“Two ladies came by and picked up some of our tracts, including a Bible.”

“Three young men came by (looked like Muslims), they picked up a Jesus tract but didn't keep it and left”

“We gave away candy to kids that were passing thru the mall, 5-8 years old.

BORN TO DIE

The soft little hands of Jesus,
Mary held so tenderly,
were made that nails might fasten
the Savior on a tree!

Those baby feet of Jesus,
now pink and oh so small,
would one day walk up Calvary's hill
to pay the sin for all!

That infant head of Jesus,
now covered with soft new hair,
would one day be all bloody,
and a crown of thorns placed there!

His newborn mouth so perfect,
would one day say “it is done!”
for He made the perfect sacrifice,
when on the cross He hung!

That tender baby's body,
in a manger now did lie,
Yet it would rest in a borrowed tomb,
for Jesus was born to die!

(By Pastor Larry Powers)

WISHING ONE AND ALL A BLESSED EASTER

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our next get-together will be on April 11th and we will be showing the movie “Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons”. This movie shares unusually insightful, compassionate, and practical approaches to evangelizing Mormons. Popcorn and drinks will be furnished. 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**

