



FROM CHAR'S DESK

I wonder how many people celebrate Christmas without ever realizing what happened that glorious day? If Jesus had not come to earth in the incarnation to one day take our place on the cross, where would we be today? Lost, lost, lost! No matter how hard we try to be "good", we are never good enough. It breaks my heart to see many of my dear Mormon friends think they are better than anyone else because they are LDS. Little do they know that no matter how hard they try to chose the right (CTR), they still miss the mark.

In order to go to heaven, we must be perfect because nothing less can enter heaven. That is why Jesus came to earth—to take sin upon Himself on the cross and give us, by faith, His righteousness. May we this Christmas share the gospel with all our Mormon friends and loved ones and pray God will give them faith to believe this amazing truth. May your Christmas be blessed by Jesus and may He give you a fruitful New Year.

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

AN IDENTIFYING MARK OF A CULT

One of the marks of a cult is that they try to deify man while humanizing God. The following 3 quotes, from Mormon sources, are just another example of why Mormonism fits into the cult category:

1. *"In Mormonism man is the center. Everything converges in him....Also man is, literally and not figuratively, the child of God, and as such inherits the nature and potentialities of his Parents of the spirit.*

God, therefore, is watchfully anxious for the welfare of his child—more so than any earthly parent could be. In a sense God exists for the glory of man, not man for the glory of God, as in the age-old Christian dogma." ("Joseph Smith An American Prophet", p.226, my emphasis)

The Lord God responds: "To whom then will you liken Me that I should be his equal? Says the Holy One" (Isaiah 40:25, NAS)

2. *"In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church [Mormonism] proclaims the eternal truth: 'As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be'". (The Articles of Faith, p.430)*

Again the Lord God answers: *"...I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10); "To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; There is no other besides Him." (Deut.4:35 NAS)*

3. *"I will go back to the beginning before the world was, to show what kind of being God is...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. 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.345, my emphasis)*

Once again the Lord God responds: *"Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Psalm 90:2 NAS)*

How sad that Mormonism followed in the footsteps of Satan who also wanted to be like God (see Isa.14:12-14). However, the next verse shares Satan's tragic end: *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."* (Isa.14:15 NAS). Please join us in prayer for our Mormon friends to come to know the truth about our Holy God.

INSPIRED/NOT INSPIRED?

The Bible clearly tells us that this holy scripture is not written by man but inspired by God – Lets start with 2 Tim.3:16, which says: *"All Scripture is inspired [God breathed] by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*

Again we read in 1 Cor.2:12-13: *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words."*

And 2 Peter 1:20-21 says: *"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

Now lets look at what the Book of Mormon claims for itself: Nephi tells us – *"And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it according to **my knowledge.**"* (1 Nephi 1:3, my emphasis)

Again Nephi apologetically says: *"Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that **I think** it be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old; not that I would excuse myself because of other men, but because of the weakness which is in me, **according to the flesh,** I would excuse myself."* (1 Nephi 19:6, my emphasis)

Lastly, 2 Nephi 11:1 says: *"And now, Jacob spake many more things to my people at that time; nevertheless only these things have **I caused to be written,** for the things which I have written **sufficeth***

me." (My emphasis)

When reading our Bibles, how wonderful to know we are hearing from God and not man. *"The grass withers, the flower fades but the word of our God stands forever"* (Isa.40:8, also repeated in Mark 13:31 & 1 Peter 1:25 - all Bible scriptures are from the New American Standard).

THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH

While December 25th is the date chosen to celebrate Jesus's birth, most people know that no one really knows the actual date. However, Mormons, "by revelation" are told that April 6th is the accurate date and of course, that is *"also the day on which The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized."* (The 2014 "Ensign", p.90)

ADAM-GOD DOCTRINE IN CURRENT LDS THEOLOGY

Many who read this article know that Brigham Young, Joseph Smith's successor, believed and taught that Adam, the first man, was God (their Heavenly Father). I will share a few excerpts to show that this was not just a passing thought or misquoted sermon, but a teaching he (and other Mormons) held to for over twenty years.

"Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael the Archangel, the Ancient of Days about whom holy men have written and spoken—He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later..." (Millennial Star, Vol.15, p.769, 1853)

"This will be fully accomplished when every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is the God of the whole earth. Then will the words of the Prophet Brigham when speaking of Adam, be fully realized—He is our Father and our God, and the only God with

whom we have to do.” (Millennial Star, Vol.17, p.195, 1855)

“Some have grumbled because I believe our God to be so near to us as Father Adam. There are many who know that doctrine to be true.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol.5, p.331, 1857)

“How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which God revealed to me—namely that Adam is our father and God...Our Father Adam is the man who stands at the gate and holds the keys of everlasting life and salvation to all his children who have or who ever will come upon the earth.” (Deseret News, p.308, 1873)

If space permitted, many more passages could be cited, but Mormonism’s own records make it abundantly clear that the “Adam-God” doctrine was a very **real part** of early Mormonism. With that being said, I add that most Mormons today do not believe that Adam is their Heavenly Father – or do they? A fairly current article, from an “official” LDS source, shows how Brigham and others could have come to the conclusions that they did. This article, entitled “ADAM”, states:

“Few persons in all eternity have been more directly involved in the plan of salvation...than the man Adam. Most people know me as the first man to live on the earth, but many don’t know that I had a special responsibility before I came to the earth. In the premortal existence, I led God’s armies against Satan’s armies in the War in Heaven, and I helped Jesus Christ create the earth. I was known as Michael then, which means one ‘who is like God.’” (The Ensign, January 2014, p.12)

While this article does not openly portray Adam as God, it certainly elevates him to a place that the Bible does not. The article ends with a “Fact Box” regarding Adam as follows: “Names: Adam, **Father Adam, Ancient of Days, Michael**...Premortal roles: Led armies of God against Satan, **helped Jesus Christ create the earth**...Postmortal roles: Will visit his people at Adam-ondi-Ahman, **assist in the Resurrection, lead the final battle against Satan**.”(ibid p.13, my emphasis)

Christians have always known that the “Ancient of Days” is a reference to the One True God (Elohim) as Dan.7:9-14 clearly portrays. To give Adam this title once again highlights the man-centered theology of Mormonism. And if Adam is believed to be “Father Adam”, “Ancient of Days”, “prince of all” and “will assist in the Resurrection”, it seems that the next step of believing he was a God (and that they can also become one) would be an easy and logical one for them to make.

This article cited about sixteen LDS scriptures (as well as Dan.7:9-14), so it is easy to see how early Mormons leaders could be confused about who Adam was. Even if Mormonism does not teach the Adam-God doctrine today, this article shows that they have not wanted to stray very far from those roots!

CITATIONS OF CONCERN

(LDS Apostle Henry B. Eyring)

“Our families can be given a gift to know what God would have them do and to learn it in a way that will encourage them to do it. God has provided such a guide. It is the Holy Ghost. We cannot give that to our family members as a companion, **but they can earn it. The Holy Ghost can be their constant companion only after they have been faithful and after they have received the ordinances of baptism and the laying on of hands by those with proper authority...**” (“The Ensign”, May 1996, p.62, my emphasis)

BEING PREPARED

Friends of the ministry, do not assume your Mormon acquaintance understands or even knows about the **true gospel** “...for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Rom.1:16). Always be ready to share with them that **Jesus alone** is “the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Him (John 14:6).

However, because Mormons believe in “a” Jesus (cf. 2 Cor.11:4), they do not understand why we do not consider them Christians. They often use the same vocabulary as Christians when discussing subjects like salvation, atonement, and grace, but the meanings

behind them are usually miles apart. The Bible tells us: *“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to **make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”*

Because terminology can be a problem for both sides when trying to share with them, please request our “Terminology Differences” papers that shows what the Mormon Church teaches and then compares the Bible scriptures on these same topics. A donation to cover the mailing would be appreciated.

COULD THIS BE YOUR LAST CHRISTMAS?

*Christmas time has come once more,
As another year rolls past.
Will this one be as those before,
Or could this Christmas be your last?*

*A melancholy thought you say
For such a happy time of year.
And yet, my friend, I hope and pray
That this message brings you cheer.*

*For the true joy of the season
Is the hope of life ahead.
To save the lost was the reason
Christ lay in a manger bed.*

*So many now disregard
The good news of Christ’s birth.
Man’s heart has become so hard
Here and throughout the whole earth.*

*The Lord has numbered our days,
This Age of Grace will soon end.
Will you consider your ways,
And look to Jesus, my friend?*

*In Him alone you can know
That if this Christmas were your last
Then your soul to heaven would go
And all earth’s sorrow would be past.*

*Please harken to this good news—
The Gospel of Christ, God’s Son.
Why would you your precious soul lose*

By rejecting what Christ has done?

*Don’t let Satan convince you
To wait for another day.
Before this Christmas time is through
Come to Jesus Christ while you may.
-by Judith Searle*

NOTICE

Ex-Mormons for Jesus is so excited! We are going to have a table at the Orange Village Mall starting on Saturday, November 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will be there every 3rd Saturday, displaying our tracts and other material and witnessing to the people. There will be a poster in front of our table that will say – WHAT IS TRUTH? If you are in the area, be sure and come by.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We usually hold monthly support group meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These meetings are for those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. However, there will be **no meeting in December** but we look forward to seeing you all in January 2017. Have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate our Lord. Please call the Center if you have any questions.

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY –



