



FROM CHAR'S DESK

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

“THE CHURCH” VS. JESUS

No one would ever believe the power Satan has in the Mormon Church. At our last Ex-Mormons for Jesus Support Group Meeting, I asked an ex-Mormon to share her testimony of how she left Mormonism. She also shared the Satanic experiences she had upon leaving. This opened up the other ex-Mormons that were there and they started to share their own fearful experiences.

In Mormonism, everything centers around “the Church” while in Christianity, everything centers around Jesus. After I became a Christian and left Mormonism, I remember telling my Mormon mother-in-law about my new excitement and love for Jesus. Her reply was, “but Jesus is the Church”. I am sure she didn't even realize what she was saying but to her and many other Mormons , this is what they believe.

I recall the spirit manifestations that occurred in the early days of Mormonism and the present day Mormons think these occurrences are wonderful! Many of them are led supernaturally to the very names of the relatives they are looking for so they can have their work done for them in the Mormon temple. Some of them are told that “the records of the past shall be unfolded unto you.”

Following is a statement by the late LDS President, Gordon B. Hinckley, that further illustrates this Mormon mind-set: “*May you look upon the Church as your great and good friend, your refuge when the world appears to be closing around you, your hope when things are dark, your pillar of fire.*” (The Nov.1997 Ensign, p.49, my emphasis). Yet how much better it would be to follow the Bible's direction for finding refuge and hope: “*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust! For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper.*” (Ps.91:1-3).

Dolly Sackett, who worked in the Genealogical Department of the Los Angeles Temple, had many of these experiences, and when she was a Mormon, she thought they were supernaturally of God. However, when she left Mormonism, she soon found out that were actually of Satan. (Satan doesn't like it when you leave his realm)! If she had known her Bible, she would have known what it says about divination and would NOT have become involved in it. It is not of God!

Another example comes from an “Ensign” magazine that shared a picture of an elderly man reading what looked like a Mormon publication. The caption in the upper left hand corner read: “*The Church is the great reservoir of eternal truth from which we can constantly and freely drink.*” (June 1996, p.5). How sad that Mormons are being led to “the Church” for their spiritual nourishment when Jesus wants to lead us to a

If there are any ex-Mormons out there that receive our newsletter and have had similar experiences, we would like to have you share them with us.

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Cults - A religion of law centered on man
Christianity - A religion of love centered on Christ

far superior fountain. He said: “...*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.*” (Rev.21:6).

Mormonism is constantly trying to change its image, but their efforts turn out to be only more deception. In the last 20 years or so, we have seen them try and answer the charges against them regarding a lack of Jesus in their church with just a superficial make over (adding the name of Jesus to the Book of Mormon, replacing statues of Joseph Smith with those of Jesus, hanging up pictures of Jesus in their temples, etc.).

Recently, Rosa, one of our workers, encountered two sets of Mormon Missionaries on different occasions. She loves to share with them and on each encounter the missionaries pulled out a picture of Jesus to give to her. I guess this is their new way of trying to look like Christians, but how shallow this is for real Christians who know what they are trying to do. It did, however, allow her an opportunity to share her Jesus (the Biblical one) with them.

And even if today’s Mormons were sincere in stepping up their efforts to follow Jesus, sadly they would still fall woefully short because their Jesus is not the same one the Bible speaks of (see 2 Cor.11:4). Just three examples follow:

Mormonism denies the virgin birth and teaches that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones, and the birth of Jesus was the result of natural action between God the Father and Mary. (“Mormon Doctrine” 1979 edition, p.547)

Mormonism teaches that Jesus and Lucifer are brothers (“The Gospel Through the Ages”, 1945, p.15) while the Bible teaches that Jesus **created** ALL things (Colossians 1:16) which includes Lucifer.

The last one I will share is their belief that Jesus was a polygamist. (“Journal of Discourses”, Vol.1, p.346; “Journal of Discourses”, Vol.2, p.210, “The Seer”, p.172).

There are many more examples of Mormonism’s “another Jesus” as well as many more references for each

one of those examples, so please feel free to call us if interested.

When Mormons are constantly being told that their church can supply their spiritual needs, they have no need to seek the One who can truly bless and save them. Trying to replace the True Reservoir for a church amounts to idolatry and is akin to committing spiritual suicide. Please join us in keeping these precious souls in prayer, that they may come to know the truth.

COMMON SENSE LEFT BEHIND

One wonders how a normally intelligent person can be so gullible when it comes to anything Mormon. One such example comes from a “Book of Mormon” story where the Jaredites are lead from the Middle East to a choice land (America) by the Lord. He instructs them to build “barges” as follows:

“And they were built after a manner that they were exceedingly tight, even that they would hold water like unto a dish; and the bottom thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the sides thereof were tight like unto a dish; and the ends thereof were peaked; and the top thereof was tight like unto a dish...and the door thereof, when it was shut, was tight like unto a dish” (Ether 2:17).

The next couple of verses tells us that the brother of Jared “cried unto the Lord” that he made the barges just as he was instructed but fears they will perish because there is no provision for light or air (God goofed?). The Lord then tells them to “*make a hole in the top, and also in the bottom; and when thou shalt suffer for air thou shalt unstop the hole and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold, ye shall stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood.*” (Vs.20, I wonder how useful the hole on the bottom was?). Still no light so he asks:

“...wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness? And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? For behold, ye cannot have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces...” (Vs.22-23).

So windows were not the answer, however, God seems to be stumped. But not to worry, the brother of Jared tells the Lord how the problem can be solved by touching some stones with His finger “*that they may shine forth in darkness*” (Ether 3:4). We are told that there are eight barges in all and the brother of Jared gives the Lord sixteen small stones to “touch”, two per vessel.

Chapter six continues the account of the voyage after they had “*prepared all manner of food, that thereby they might subsist upon the water, and also food for their flocks and herds, and whatsoever beast or animal or fowl that they should carry with them*”. The Lord then causes a “furious wind” to blow them towards the promised land. “*And it came to pass that they were many times buried in the depths of the sea, because of the mountain waves which broke upon them...*” (Vs.6).

Verse eleven tells us that they were thus driven for “*three hundred and forty and four days*”. Even if these “furious winds” blew them at only 10 m.p.h., some have calculated that it would only take them about 21 days to cross the 5,000 miles, not 344. Finally, with only the wind to steer them, all eight barges miraculously arrive together and in tack!

I have only touched on a small portion of problems that this story creates for itself, but an honest person can see that one has to completely ignore common sense and logic to accept it. In fact, the whole “Book of Mormon” is filled with numerous blunders, Biblical disharmony, plagiarism and confusion. For anyone who would like further information regarding some of these problems, you can contact our Center. One such recommendation is the little booklet, THE BOOK OF MORMON, A BOOK OF ERROR AND FRAUD, by Jon Gary Williams, where the idea for this article was taken (suggested donation \$4 plus shipping).

ORANGE VILLAGE MALL ENCOUNTERS

We continue to represent Ex-Mormons For Jesus at the Orange Village Mall on the 3rd Saturday of every month. We hand out free literature and try to educate the public regarding Mormonism. Our workers, Charlotte and Dan, were on duty for the month of August. Following are some of these recent encounters:

The Jehovah Witnesses had a table next to ours and Char asked them if they had ever heard of Ex-Mormons For Jesus and they had not. She then asked them if they ever heard of Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus and again, they had not (put a little bee in their bonnet, however).

A man went by and I asked him if he knew anything about Mormonism and I went to give him a pamphlet and he said, “ask me if I would like one?” So I did and he said, “No”. I told him if you ever had a loved one that wants to become a Mormon, then you'll wish you had taken one. He asked me if I knew anything about Scientology and I told him that wasn't of God either... He ended up telling me he was a Jew but that he didn't practice his religion but he feels if you are a good person you'll be o.k. I told him that Jesus said no one is good. We can seem to be good when we compare ourselves with each other, but when we compare ourselves with God, we fall short. He was a real nice man, I gave him our ministry tract and he thanked me.

An oriental woman went by and she had heard of our ministry. I gave her our brochure and she said, “can I keep this?” (Yes) And she said when she gets home she will read it.

A woman stopped by who was a J.W. for 40 years and then got saved. She witnesses to the J.W.'s here at the mall. She said she can't believe she was so blind to believe in it. She said she is now so happy, and took our brochure.

Dan talked to a man for about 30 minutes who had once been a Mormon but is now out.

Dan also met a Lutheran man who was concerned about his Mormon relatives. Dan gave him several tracts plus his personal e-mail so they could continue to correspond.

A Catholic man came by. He said that as a Catholic he never knew the Lord but he got born-again and he left the Catholic Church. However, his mother wouldn't listen and said she was going to stay Catholic. But when she was dying she accepted the Lord. Praise His Holy Name!

If you live in the area, we would love for you to come by and look us up at the mall on one of our Saturdays. Also, please pray for our ministry to be effective in exposing the truth about Mormonism, in loving the Mormon people by sharing the truth with them and by giving God the glory in all that we do.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker on October 10th will be Jane Llanos. Jane is an ex-Mormon who was born and raised a Mormon but she always felt she never measured up. She will be sharing her testimony at this time.

There will be a question and answer time as well as refreshments. All are welcome, those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 671 N. Poplar Street in Orange. We look forward to seeing you there.

SIGNIFICANT PARALLELS BETWEEN THE SHACK AND MORMONISM

By Kurt Van Gorden (Jude 3 Missions)

The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity (Windblown Media, 2007), is a runaway best-selling novel by William Paul Young that was adapted to a movie in 2017. People become passionate about *The Shack*, because its emotional storyline tugs at the heart. To quell such defenses for Mr. Young, let me state from the outset that Mr. Young himself became the impetus for this article. His sarcastic reaction about the similarity between his portrayal of God and the Mormon triad of gods during a live interview with Matthew Slick caught my attention. These striking similarities could have been accidental. However, this was quickly put to rest when Young strongly defended his humanoid interpretation of God the Father by copying precisely the same arguments found in Mormon books to defend their human god.

Young had ample opportunity to set straight any misconceptions and conform to historic Christian doctrine in his subsequent books, *Crossroads* (2012), *Eve* (2015), and *Lies We Believe About God*, (2017). The reality is that his false doctrines continually emerged, but most forcefully in *Lies*, where he clearly confessed to universal salvation and reconciliation. Those who have studied Mormon soteriology know that it, too, promotes a similar view of universalism, where nearly everyone is saved and hardly anyone goes to hell.

The monotheistic God of Christian Scripture is a Trinity of Persons (cf. Matthew 28:19). Young, while claiming to personally believe this, has unfortunately cast God more like the Mormon understanding, that there are three distinct god-beings that appear as

humans (*Shack*, 93). The direct similarity is seen in Joseph Smith's words, "the Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22) and Joseph Fielding Smith informs us that the Holy Ghost is a "body of spirit in the form and likeness of a man," (*Gospel Principles*, 34). The parallel is inescapable in *The Shack*. In contrast, the Bible teaches us that God is spirit (John 4:24) and that a spirit does not have flesh and bone (Luke 24:39), but more exacting, "I am God, and not man, the Holy One in your midst" (Hosea 11:9, NKJV).

One of the great biblical statements about God's monotheistic nature is summarized in the Athanasian Creed about the indivisibility of God, worded as "nor dividing the substance." This, of course, is based upon such verses as Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; Mark 12:29; and James 2:19. Biblical monotheism prevents multiple gods (polytheism), a triad of gods (three gods), or any other Wayward idea. Both Mormonism and Young's book present God's nature as a triad of gods, that is, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct human-like gods functioning in unison, which is not biblical in the least.

Mormons deny that the Bible can be trusted, hence their need for their additional scriptures. The eighth *Article of Faith*, by Joseph Smith, states, "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly..." This distorts the trustworthiness of the Bible as God's word. Young endorsed C. Baxter Kruger's foreword for his book, calling it the "foundation of truth" (*Lies*, 20), but a disturbing part casts doubt upon the trustworthiness of God's Word. The book states, "The gospels and letters...are attempts to explore and express the meaning of Jesus' presence and death (*Lies*, 10). No, they were not "attempts" at "exploring" Jesus' meaning," instead they were historical eyewitness accounts (Luke 1:1-3; John 14:27; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16). Similarly, Mormonism diminishes the reliability of the eyewitness accounts.

On inclusiveness, Mormonism has moved in recent decades toward the concept that God has sent messengers to all people (cf. Palmer and Keller, *Religions of the World*, 1989). Young too, has an all-inclusive message that gives God's approval of Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and all the other religions. In *The Shack*, Jesus said, "Those who love me come from every system that exist. They were Buddhist or Mormons, Baptist or Muslims...I have no desire to make them Christian but I do want them to join in their transformation into sons and daughters of my Papa, into my brothers and sisters" (*Shack*, 182). Imagine that. God has no desire to make them "Christ-followers," the very meaning of Christian."

This is universalism and is not the biblical message of salvation through Jesus alone. He said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no man gets to the Father but by me." We must go through Jesus or not at all. Acts 4:12 tells us, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." God wants us to follow His word and not to be led astray by any other voice. How Young ended up with so many parallels with Mormonism is unknown, but what we know is that we must stand with God's message alone, the Bible, which safeguards us against all error.

