

What Is Wrong With Mormonism? (II)

Orson Pratt, Mormon apostle

“The nature of the Book of Mormon is such that, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it.”

No baptism for the dead – Alma 34:32ff.

Review

History of Mormonism –

Joseph Smith

Brigham Young

Book of Mormon

I History Of Mormonism

II Book Of Mormon, (cont'd.)

A visit to Professor Anthon

- *Pearl, Joseph Smith, 2:61-65*
 - Anthon's response –

“...The whole story about my having pronounced the Mormonite inscription to be ‘reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics’ is **perfectly false.**”

- Mormon 9:34

A problem with chronology

Alma 46:13-16 (Time: 73 BC)

Nephites . . .

- ♦Believers of Christ

[Contrast 1 Pt.1:10-12]

- ♦Belonged to church of God

[Contrast Mt.16:18]

- ♦Called 'Christians'

[Contrast Ac.11:26]

I History Of Mormonism

II Book Of Mormon

III Mormon
Doctrine Of God

God: body of flesh & bones

“The Father has a body 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 Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us” – Doctrine and Covenants, 130:22

God: body of flesh & bones

“When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his celestial wives, with him. He is our father & our God and the only God with whom we have to do” – Brigham Young, *The Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, p.50.

Lk.24:39; Jn.4:24

Plurality of Gods

“Gods exist, and we had better strive to prepare to be with them” – Discourses of B. Young, p. 351.

We may become Gods

“As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become” – Lorenzo Snow, former president of Mormon Church, *Millennial Star*, Vol.54

“Remember that God our Heavenly Father was perhaps once a child and mortal like we are and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement: has moved forward and overcome until He has arrived at the point where He now is” – Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, p.123

Gods have wives

“In the heaven where our spirits were born, there are many gods, each of whom has his own wife or wives which were given to him previous to his redemption while yet in his mortal state” – Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, Vol. I, p.37.

Men saw God (1/3)

Ex.24⁹ Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. ¹¹ But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Men saw God (2/3)

Ex.33⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ...¹¹ So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. ...²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.

Men saw God (3/3)

Isa.6¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ...⁵ So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”

[John 12 = Jesus]

Men saw God – The Facts

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him* – Jn.1:18

- *No one . . . any time* (includes Moses / Isaiah)

But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live” – Ex.33:20

Men saw God – The Facts

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation – Col.1:15

BUT: seeing Jesus is seeing 'God' –

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?” – Jn.14:9

Does God have a physical body?

Scripture refers to His hand, arm,
eyes, nostrils, mouth, etc.

- Common literary device in OT
- Consistent?
 - Gn.1:2, face of the deep
 - Gn.1:20, face of heaven / 1:29, earth / 2:6, ground
 - Ps.91:4, feathers...wings (Dt.32:11)
 - Wings of wind, Ps.18:10
 - Jn.6:51, bread / 10:9, door / 15:1, vine

I History Of Mormonism

II Book Of Mormon

III Mormon Doctrine Of God

IV Mormon
Doctrine Of Jesus

Jesus is Father and Son

And because he said unto them that Christ was the God, the Father of all things, and said that he should take upon him the image of man, and it should be the image after which man was created in the beginning; or in other words, he said that man was created after the image of God, and that God should come down among the children of men, and take upon him flesh and blood, and go forth upon the face of the earth

— Mosiah 7:27

Jesus is Father and Son

Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have life [light], and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters

– Ether 3:14

- Contrast Jn.16:28; 8:16-18

Jesus is son of Adam

“He (Jesus) was not begotten by the Holy Ghost ... Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our father in heaven” – B. Young, *J. of Dis.*, Vol. I, p.50

1. Makes Adam the Father. Mt.1:18-20
2. Alma 7:10, Jesus was begotten of Holy Spirit.
3. Alma 7:10, Jesus was born in Jerusalem

Jesus' plural marriages

“We say it was Jesus Christ who was married (at Cana to the Marys & Martha) whereby he could see his seed before he was crucified.” . . .

“If all the facts were written, we, no doubt, would learn that these beloved women were his wives” – Orson Pratt, The Seer, p. 159.

- Jacob 2:27-28, an abomination
- Doctrine & Covenants, 132:38-40f . . .
52-54

I History Of Mormonism

II Book Of Mormon

III Mormon Doctrine Of God

IV Mormon Doctrine Of Jesus

V Mormon
Organization

"Elders"

Wives? ... Children? (1 Tim.3:2,4)

Describe Mormon church organization

Questions:

1. Must we have authority for all we do (Col.3:17)?
2. Is it serious to go beyond doctrine of Christ (2 Jn.9)?
3. Will you accept NT pattern (Mt.28:20)?

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V Mormon Organization

**VI Mormons And
Miracles**

Doctrine and Covenants, 84:65-72

- When they come, ask for a miracle
- Usually, two replies –
 1. 'Wicked generation seeks sign,'
Mt.12:38-40
 - a. Jesus already showed signs...
 - b. He would show greatest of all...

Doctrine and Covenants, 84:65-72

- When they come, ask for a miracle
- Usually, two replies –
 1. 'Wicked generation seeks sign,' Mt.12:38-39
 2. 'You have no faith.'
 - a. Their failure is MY fault?
 - b. Unbelief can overcome power of God?
 - c. Ac.13:10-11; 20:9-10

True apostles

“Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds” – 2 Co.12:12

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars” – Rv.2:2