

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

When a Mormon tells you “*I believe Jesus died for my sins too*” he is not talking about the Biblical Jesus but the Mormon Jesus, two different beings and two different religions. This is not my opinion, it is the view of prominent Mormon leaders, aka *Prophets*, throughout the entire history of Mormonism:

- "This [Mormon] Church...*the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth*" (Joseph Smith (1805 – 1844) the founder of Mormonism, *Doctrine and Covenants*, 1:30).
- "What is it that inspires professors of Christianity generally with a hope of salvation? It is that smooth, sophisticated influence of the devil, by which he deceives the whole world." (Joseph Smith (1805 – 1844), *Teachings of the Prophet*, p.270). [Essentially the Mormon Church views the traditional Christian pastor as a hireling of Satan, the brother of the Mormon Jesus.]
- "Should you ask why we differ from other Christians, as they are called, it is simply because they are not Christians as the New Testament defines Christianity" (Brigham Young (1801 – 1877), *Journal of Discourses*, 10:230).
- "This is not just another Church. This is not just one of a family of Christian churches. This is the Church and kingdom of God, the only true Church upon the face of the earth..." (President Ezra Taft Benson (1899 – 1994), *Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p.164-165).
- "the Christ followed by the Mormons is not the Christ followed by traditional Christianity. It is true that many of the Christian Churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshiped by the Mormons" (Bernard Brockbank (1909 – 2000), *The Ensign*, May, 1977 pg.26.)
- In 1998 LDS **President Hinckley** (1910 – 2008) spoke of claims outside the LDS church that ‘Mormons do not believe in the historical Christ’ and whether or not he regarded the Jesus of Christianity as the same Jesus of Mormonism: “No, I don’t. **The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He, together with his Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820 and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more about the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages.**” (*Church News*, June 20, 1998.)

From this it is clear the Mormon Jesus and church are not the same as the **historical** and **Biblical** Jesus and orthodox church. Now in recent history Mormons have a great advertising campaign touting the *Book of Mormon (BoM)* not as a *different* gospel, or the *correct* gospel, but rather now it is “Another Testament of Jesus Christ”. This is clearly an effort to muddy the plain difference between Mormonism and Christianity in order to tie themselves to orthodox Christianity. Mormons, despite still claiming the Old and New Testaments are full of errors, now want to essentially present the *BoM* as the third book in a trilogy, just one book in a set.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

### No salvation if you deny Joseph Smith

In Christianity one has to accept and believe *only* in Jesus to be saved to go to heaven.

In Mormonism one has to believe that the LDS Church is the only true church and that Joseph Smith is God's only true prophet. Mormonism teaches if you believe in Jesus but deny Joseph Smith is his prophet you cannot have salvation (sounds like Islam doesn't it):

- [There is] "*no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth...no man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God*" (Joseph Fielding Smith (1838 – 1918), the nephew of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, p.190).
- "...*no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are...*" (Brigham Young (1801 – 1877), *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p.289).
- "*he that confesseth not that Jesus has come in the flesh and sent Joseph Smith with the fullness of the Gospel to this generation, is not of God, but is anti-christ*" (Brigham Young (1801 – 1877), *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 9, p.312).
- "*If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*" (Bruce McConkie (1915 –1985), *Mormon Doctrine*, p.670).
- "*If we get our salvation, we shall have to pass by him [Joseph Smith]; if we enter our glory, it will be through the authority he has received. We cannot get around him ["him" meaning Joseph Smith]*" (President George Q. Cannon (1827 – 1901) as quoted in 1988 *Melchizedek Priesthood Study Guide*, p. 142).

And yet the Christian Bible tells us:

Jesus answered, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" **John 14:6**

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we are saved." **Acts 4:12**

### Changes in the Book of Mormon (BoM)

Mormons tell people they meet that the Christian Bible contains many errors and use the fact that there are multiple translations as proof. They imply these translations are a result of trying to cover up or explain away the supposed errors in the Bible. Never mind the fact that historically

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

there are multiple translations mostly for readability reasons and despite numerous translations the *facts* and *actual doctrine* have **remained unchanged and consistent**, something that cannot be said of the *BoM* even though it is much newer.

"I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was *the most correct of any book on earth*, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder of Mormonism, *History of the Church*, Volume 4, page 461.

In the *BoM* Alma 41:8 claims "*the decrees of God are unalterable...*" And still the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has managed to introduce change after change for over 150 years.

Mormonism teaches that the *BoM* is the *most correct book* ever written. Why then don't Mormons print or read from the *Book of Mormon* written in 1830? Many changes have been made to the *BoM* over the years. A comparison of the first edition of the *Book of Mormon* with a current edition shows nearly 4,000 changes. Many of the changes seem minor unless you consider the *BoM* to be "*the most correct of any book on earth*" as the creator of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, claimed. In many cases the original *thought* was changed and the changes are major departures from the original text.

For example, in the first edition of the *BoM*, what is now 1 Nephi 11:32 (Chapter 3, page 26 of the original Book of Mormon), shows that the original manuscript *and* the first edition copies are identical. Since the handwritten copy and the first printed copies match, one cannot dismiss them as "printer's errors." Subsequent *changes were introduced by the LDS Church* and are significantly different from the handwritten manuscript and the early printed copies.

A few changes:

- The original *BoM* states that Joseph Smith **wrote** the *BoM* and later it was changed to say he **translated** the *BoM*.
- *Benjamin* changed to *Mosiah* in both Mosiah 21:28 and Ether 4:1.
- *Directors* changed to *interpreters* - Alma 37:21, 24.
- *White* changed to *pure* (pertains to change in skin color) - 2 Nephi 30:6.
- *Mother of God* changed to *Mother of the Son of God*. - 1 Nephi 11:18.
- *The Eternal Father* changed to *Son of the Eternal Father* - 1 Nephi 11:21, 32, 13:40.
- *The everlasting God* changed to *Son of the everlasting God* - 1 Nephi 11:32.
- *Preparator* (in 1830 edition) changed to *foundation* (at least in the 1908, 1920, 1948, 1961 editions, probably others) **and then back to Preparator** (1981 edition). - 1 Nephi 15:35.

### Joseph Smith and the King James Bible

- Joseph Smith wrote the *BoM* about 250 years after the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible was translated.
- Joseph Smith plagiarized much of the King James Bible, both the *style* and *stories*.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

- Joseph Smith *even copied errors and words added for clarification* in the KJV translations:

There are 17 full chapters from the Book of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon in Mosiah. In a close comparison of chapter 53 of Isaiah and the 14th chapter of Mosiah one will find that all the italicized words in Isaiah are word for word copied in Mosiah. Those italicized words were added by the King James translators in 1611 for clarification and easier reading in English. How does the LDS Church explain their presence if Joseph Smith didn't copy out of the Bible? (Source: <http://www.hismin.com/questions.html>)

One has to wonder why Joseph Smith wrote in the style of the King James English in 1830. The *BoM* reflects the idioms of the English language in the early 1600s found in the KJV of the Bible and not, as one would expect, the Near Eastern idioms of the ancient language it purports to translate.

A translation of ancient material *should* include the idioms of the time period being translated or of the time period of the translation (the 1830s) but not the idioms of a period in between the original and the translation. When Joseph Smith wrote the *BoM* the language of the KJV was already archaic. Why wasn't the *BoM* translated into the language used in the United States in the 1830s?

### 'A burning in your bosom'

- Mormons tell me that I should read the *BoM* and then pray to see if I get 'a burning in your bosom' as God reveals it's truthfulness to me.
- They tell me if I pray about it and "ask with a sincere heart" I will receive confirmation that it is true. If no positive confirmation comes, then it must be that I was not sincere (and not that the Mormon claim is false). I must keep praying until I receive an answer.
- My guess is a Hindu or a Muslim could claim they had a warm fuzzy feeling too when they prayed about their sacred texts.
- Have Mormons read the Christian *Bible*, the writings of Buddha or Confucius, the Muslim *Qur'an*, the Hindu *Vedas* or *Bhagavad Gita* and sincerely prayed about them?

### Witnesses

Several Mormons claimed to have *actually seen* the Golden Plates from which Joseph Smith translated the *BoM*. They all claimed to have seen *piles and stacks* of these plates.

- "Wagon loads of plates" inside the Hill Cumorah said David Whitmer (Preston Nibley, *The Witnesses of the Book of Mormon*, pp 68-69.)
- Heber C. Kimball, Oliver Cowdery, and Joseph Sr. (*Journal of Discourses* [JoD] 4:105.)
- Brigham Young (JoD 19:38)
- Similar stories were repeated by Wilford Woodruff (4th President of the Church), Lucy Smith (Joseph Smith's mother), William Phelps, and others.

However the *BoM* witnesses later admitted they *only saw these things in visions*, not in reality.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

All the *BoM* witnesses (excepting Joseph Smith's brothers and his father) later left the Mormon Church and joined other religions or started their own.

- When Martin Harris was asked about this, he said, "I never saw the golden plates, only in a visionary or entranced state..." (*Early Mormon Documents*, 2:346-47, quoted from "Insider's View of Mormon Origin", p. 198.)
- When questioned by another person whether he (Martin Harris) saw the plates and engravings on them with his bodily eyes, he said, "I did not see them as I do that pencil case, yet I saw them with the eye of faith." (*Early Mormon Documents*, 2:270.)
- David Whitmer also agreed that they did not handle the plates physically, only as in vision. More of this in Preston Nibley's book, "*Witnesses of the Book of Mormon*".
- In the *History of the Church* (vol. 1:52-55) it states that to see the plates the witnesses had to pray in order to see the visions of the plates.

### Divisions in Christianity are bad while divisions in Mormonism are not mentioned

The late Mormon "apostle" Bruce McConkie said in a satellite transmission to Mormons worldwide:

"The Bible of the Old World has come to us from the manuscripts of antiquity -- manuscripts which passed through the hands of uninspired men who changed many parts to suit their own doctrinal ideas. Deletions were common, and, as it now stands, many plain and precious portions and many covenants of the Lord have been lost. As a consequence, those who rely upon it alone stumble and are confused and divide themselves among churches, all based on this or that interpretation of the Bible."

Source: *Ensign*, December 1985, page 55.

Mormonism teaches that because the *BoM* is so perfect and clear Mormonism does not have the divisions that traditional Christianity has.

It is to be expected that when the angel restores the gospel it will be restored in fullness and in the most perfect simplicity and plainness so that every point of the doctrine of Christ shall be ***clearly revealed and expressed in such language that no two persons could understand it differently...*** nothing else can be an infallible standard of the Christian religion; nothing else can reclaim them from divisions and strifes; nothing else will give certainty and stability so necessary to the happiness and salvation of man; and nothing else could be expected in the revelation of the gospel by an angel. *Such a revelation is the Book of Mormon*; the most infallible certainty characterizes every ordinance and every doctrinal point revealed in that book. ***In it there is no ambiguity no room for controversy no doctrine so imperfectly expressed that two persons would draw two different conclusions therefrom...***

Orson Pratt's Works, Vol 2, "*Important Works in Mormon History*", Grandin Book Co, 1990, p. 83; This can also be found in *Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon*, Apostle Orson Pratt, 1851, No. 6, page 83.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

The Mormonism church actually has many divisions and these divisions started just a few years after it was founded. The most well known division being the *Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints* (RLDS) (now known as *Community of Christ*). The RLDS were founded in the spring of 1844 by leaders dissenting from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The RLDS was first headed by Joseph Smith III, the eldest surviving son of Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Latter Day Saint movement.

In 2001, the RLDS/Community of Christ President W. Grant McMurray said of problems with the *BoM*, "*The proper use of the Book of Mormon as sacred scripture has been under wide discussion in the 1970s and beyond, in part because of long-standing questions about its historicity and in part because of perceived theological inadequacies, including matters of race and ethnicity.*"

### Archaeology

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has spent tens of millions of dollars in archeological searches in North, Central, and South America and has not found anything, no evidence of the people or large cities they claim existed.

Contrast that to Biblical and non-Biblical archaeology which continually finds confirmation from the Bible. Cities that have not existed for thousands of years but mentioned in the Bible have been located and their inhabitants identified and their history verified.

### Ancient People

The *BoM* claims to be a history of the ancient peoples living in Central America. Mormons claim that in 1830 no one knew of the existence of the great cities and ancient civilizations which once inhabited Central America and that archaeologists and other researchers after 1830 confirmed that ancient civilizations and cities, similar to those described in the *BoM*, did not exist.

The truth is many books from the early 1700s and 1800s existed prior to the *BoM* from which Joseph Smith could have learned about ancient cultures in Central and South America: *History of America*, Herrera, 1725; *The Hope of Israel*, Manasseh ben Israel 1649-1656; *History of Mexico*, Clavigero (2 Vols.), 1st English edition in 1787, translated by Charlie; Cullen; *History of the American Indians*, James Adair, 1775; *The American Geography*, Jedidiah Morse, 1789; *European Settlements in America*, Burks, 1808; *Spanish Colonies*, Walton, 1810; *Researches in Mexico*, A. De Humboldt, translated into English by H. M. Williams, 1814; *Researches on America*, James H. McCullah, 1817; *Spanish America*, R. H. Bonnycastle, 1818; *Bullock's Mexico*, 1824; *Archaeologia Americana*, 1820; *A View of S. America and Mexico*, Niles, 1826.

The books by Mannasseh ben Israel in 1656 & James Adair in 1775 both advanced the theory that the American Indians were descendants of the Israelites; therefore, Joseph Smith did not have a new revelation regarding this incorrect theory.

# The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

## Ancient Languages

According to the LDS movement the *BoM* was originally written in a language Joseph Smith claimed to be *Reformed Egyptian*. The only problem is there is no such thing as “reformed Egyptian”.

...standard language reference works contain no reference to "reformed Egyptian". No non-Mormon scholars acknowledge the existence of either a "reformed Egyptian" language or a "reformed Egyptian" orthography as it has been described in Mormon belief...

...in 1966, John A. Wilson, professor of Egyptology at the University of Chicago, wrote, "From time to time there are allegations that picture writing has been found in America... In no case has a professional Egyptologist been able to recognize these characters as Egyptian hieroglyphs. From our standpoint there is no such language as 'reformed Egyptian'."

...Klaus Baer, another Egyptologist at the University of Chicago, called the characters of the "Caractors" document nothing but "doodlings". An early twentieth century scholar said that the "Caractors" document looked more like "deformed English."

...During the early 1980s, forger Mark Hofmann sold alleged Mormon materials to Mormon investors and the LDS Church, including a sample of reformed Egyptian characters probably copied from the Caractors Transcript in a manner intended to make them more closely agree with the description given by Anthon.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformed\\_Egyptian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformed_Egyptian)

## Racism

- The Book of Mormon, *prior to the 1981 change*, says that **American Indians will turn white when they convert to Mormonism** (2 Nephi 30:6).
- "...**The negro is not equal with other races**..." *Mormon Doctrine*, 527-28, 1966 **now changed** in the current edition.
- In 2 Nephi 30:6 both the original printer's manuscript and the 1830 edition state believers "...shall be a white and a delightful people." "*White*" has since been changed to "*pure*" fairly recently.
- **The prophet Brigham Young said blacks would never hold priesthood in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. (This "unchangeable" dictate of the Prophet was rescinded over a century later.)**
- "*But let them apostatize and they will become gray-haired and black just like the Devil.*" Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, P. 332.
- "***There is a reason why one man is born black...while another is born white with great advantages.***" Joseph Fielding Smith (1838 – 1918), *Doctrine of Salvation*, 1:61, 65-66.
- In 1958, Bruce McConkie, apostle of the Mormon Council of 12, said, "*We know the circumstances under which the posterity of Cain (and later of Ham) were cursed with*

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

*what we call Negroid racial characteristics.*” (Bruce McConkie, *Apostle of the Mormon Council of 12, Mormon Doctrine*, 1958, p. 554)

### A Few Differences between Mormonism and Christianity:

#### In the beginning:

- Christianity: God created *all things* in six days. All creatures, including man, were created after their own kinds.
- Mormonism: Each man had a pre-earth life and we existed as God's “spirit children.”
- Christianity: The Judeo-Christian Bible deals with the beginning of the universe. Genesis 1:1 tells us “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” In John 1:1-3 we are told “*In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*”
- Mormonism: Joseph Smith said that matter and intelligence are eternal, they existed forever. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics says matter couldn't have been around forever which is consistent with what the Bible tells us.

#### View of God:

The Mormon God is not the same as the God of the Christian Bible. Mormonism teaches, “**As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.**” In other words Mormonism teaches God was once a man and then became a god and that man can become a god.

- Christianity: There is only One God: James 2:19, Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10.
- Mormonism: The Existence of Many Gods: *Journal of Discourses* 2:345; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* p.370; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 322-323; 576-577.
- Christianity: God Created the Universe by His Word: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3
- Mormonism: God only Organized the Universe: *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 589-590
- Christianity: God the Father is not a Man: Numbers 23:19; Isaiah 31:3; Hos.11:9.
- Mormonism: God the Father is an Exalted Man: *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-347; D&C 130:22.
- Christianity: God the Father is Spirit: John 4:24.
- Mormonism: God the Father is/was a man with a Physical Body: *Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22.
- Christianity: God the Father is Eternal: Isaiah 43:13; 44:6,8.
- Mormonism: God the Father had a beginning: *The Seer*, 132; *Mormon Doctrine* p.322.
- Mormonism: God was redeemed on another planet by another Jesus and achieved godhood.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

- Mormonism: There are supposedly an infinite number of such gods ruling other planets, and every Mormon male aspires to become a god himself, which would add an infinite number of gods.

*Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4***

- Christianity: God the Father has no Parent: Isaiah 43:13.
- Mormonism: God the Father has Parents: *The Seer*, p.132.
- Christianity: God is not married: Mark 12:28-30.
- Mormonism: God the Father is a Polygamist: *The Seer*, p.172.
- Mormonism: God is the literal father of every person on earth through physical sex with his many wives.
- Mormonism: God had physical sex with Mary to bring forth the Mormon "Jesus," who needed a physical body to become a god.

### View of Jesus Christ:

- Christianity: Jesus is the son of God.
- Mormonism: Jesus is a son of God (one of millions, billions, or even gazillions).  
Again, read **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**
- Christianity: Jesus was Begotten by the Holy Spirit: Matthew 1:1-18; Luke 1:26-35.
- Mormonism: Jesus was the physically conceived Son of God and not begotten by Holy Ghost: Mormon Doctrine, 546-547; *Come Unto Christ* by Ezra Taft Benson.
- Christianity: Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, who became man to live a perfect life, to be mankind's substitute on the Cross, and to rise from the dead, defeating death.
- Mormonism: Jesus is the spirit-brother to every man, and even Satan. Jesus is one of an endless number of gods and is a being separate from the Heavenly Father.
- Christianity: Jesus has always been God: John 1:1-18; Col. 2:9; Psalms 90:2.
- Mormonism: Jesus became a god: *Desert News*, June 17, 1909; *Conference Report*, Apostle Richard Scott, April 7, 1997.
- Christianity: Satan is a Created Being, Created by Jesus: Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:9; Colossians 1:15-16.
- Mormonism: Jesus and Satan are Brothers: *Gospel Through the Ages*, p.15.
- Christianity: Jesus has only One Bride: the Church; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:9.
- Mormonism: Jesus was a Polygamist; *Journal of Discourses*, vol.1:345-346 and vol.2, 82,210.

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

### Sin and Salvation:

- Christianity: Men can only become Children of God: John 1:12; Romans 8:23.
- Mormonism: Men can become gods: *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 2:345; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* p. 346-347.
  
- Christianity: Every person has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ and His redeeming work on the Cross.
- Mormonism: Sin was part of God's plan. Without it mankind could not progress to become like God. Salvation is a combination of faith and works.
  
- Christianity: There is no Salvation after Death: Hebrews 3:7-8, 13, 15; 9:27.
- Mormonism: There is Salvation after Death: *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 669-672.
  
- Christianity: There is Salvation only in Jesus Christ: John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9.
- Mormonism: There is Salvation only in the LDS Church & Joseph Smith: *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol.1:350; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670; *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7:289; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670.
  
- Christianity: Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus: 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 2:16-21; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:9; Titus 3:5-7.
- Mormonism: Salvation comes only through the LDS Church by following all the laws and ordinances of the LDS gospel: *Third Article of Faith*, *Mormon Doctrine* p. 670, *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 2, 306-311.

### Life After Death:

- Christianity: Mankind will live forever either in heaven or in hell. We can get to heaven because we are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus.
- Mormonism: Even after death, everyone has an opportunity to respond to the gospel. Heaven has three levels, and those who attain the highest level become gods, ruling and populating their own universe.

### **Regarding faith and salvation Mormonism teaches:**

"Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom... It is the salvation which the saints seek. It is of this which the Lord says, 'There is no greater gift than the gift of salvation'. Source: *Doctrine and Covenants* 6:13

“This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and **those who obtain it are gods.**” Source: *Doctrine and Covenants* 131:1-4; 132

“Full salvation is attained by virtue of knowledge, truth, righteousness, and all true principles. **Many conditions must exist in order to make such a salvation available to men.** Without the atonement, the gospel, the priesthood, and the sealing power, there

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

would be no salvation. Without continuous revelation, the ministering of angels, the working of miracles, the prevalence of gifts of the spirit, there would be no salvation. *If it had not been for Joseph Smith and restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*” **Source:** *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 669-671

Brigham Young, “From the day that the priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up things of things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are I with you and you with me. I cannot go there without his consent.” **Source:** *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7:289, and 1984 LDS Church manual, “*Search These Commandments*”, p. 133.)

Joseph Smith was a prophet, and all calumny and aspirations to the contrary cannot controvert that fact. Anyone who has concern for the welfare of his eternal soul should give attention to this message. Every man who has lived since the days of Joseph Smith is subject to accepting him as a prophet of God in order to enter into our Heavenly Father’s presence. **Source:** *LDS Church News*, March 17, 2001

Joseph Smith “I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.” **Source:** *History of the Church*, vol. 6:408-409

### Conclusion

The great-nephew of Joseph Smith, Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr. (1838 – 1918) wrote:

*"Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground.... The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurement, the scriptures." Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, page 188.*

Actually I agree with the above statement. As I have shown throughout my paper, the Jesus of Christianity *is not* the same as the Jesus of Mormonism. There is no connection between Mormonism and orthodox Christianity. Mormonism *historically* teaches a different God, a different Jesus, and a different Christianity. History and archeology confirm this, as do the Scriptures:

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

## The Jesus of Christianity Compared to the Jesus of Mormonism

By David Bennett July 2012

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12*

The scriptures also warn us of coming false prophets:

*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. Matthew 7:15*

*...many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Matthew 24:11*

*For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. Matthew 24:24-25*

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! 1 Galatians 1:6-9*

*But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Peter 2:1*

*... you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. Revelation 2:2*