

October 1, 2007

H.I.S. Ministries October Newsletter, covering September 2007

Many greetings from Sandy, Utah.

A beautiful fall is here. Air is crisp and cool, and leaves are turning red and yellow – such a beautiful and colorful sight with background of white snow on the high mountains. We hope you all enjoy this season as much as we are enjoying it.

We have been again asked to explain “*Mormon-ese*”, in other words what Mormons mean when they are using “our words”, the words familiar to Christians. One person wrote: “*I was listening to a couple of Mormon missionaries. They are speaking English, but somehow I sense that they are not speaking our language. Can you explain what they are really saying?*”

Some others have said that when they have talked with Mormons about their faith in Jesus and the gospel, but they do not see what the problem is, for Mormons seem to have the very same beliefs as Christians.

In that case they have not understood “the language barrier”, but even if the words are the same, they do not mean the same to Mormons. The LDS Church uses a “different dictionary”, they have changed the meaning of the words of the Bible. Mormons just seem to be saying what we as Christians are saying, but we could not be farther apart in the meanings behind these words.

Let's look at a few of the words and terms that make us very far apart:

God (or Heavenly Father in Mormonism) – When Mormons talk about God, they think of Him as a former man, like we are now, a man who *became a god*, just as they too can become Gods some day. They believe that God has a father and mother, and that He is an exalted man with a body of flesh and bones. They also believe, as they have been taught, that all mankind and angels are spirit-children, born to God and His wives in pre-existence, which makes God their Heavenly Father.

God in Christianity is Eternal God, who has always been God. (Ps. 90:2; Deut. 33:27.) He is not like us in any way, shape or form. He is the only God that has ever existed, or will ever exist. (Isaiah 43:10.) God is Spirit. A Spirit does not have flesh and bones. (John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Col. 1:15.) God is not a man. (Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.) God does not have a wife or wives. Men were not born in the pre-existence to God. (John 8:23.) God becomes our Father when accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. (John 1:12.)

Jesus Christ –Mormonism teaches that Jesus is the eldest spirit-child of God, and thus He was not always God. They also teach that Jesus is the spirit-brother of Lucifer and all mankind. They teach that “*Christ was begotten by an Immortal father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by their mortal fathers*”, which means that Jesus was not Virgin-born as the Bible declares.

Jesus Christ – Christianity believes what the Bible says about Jesus – that He has always been God – *He is the beginning and the end, the Almighty.* (Rev. 1:8; John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23.) He is Lucifer's Creator, not his brother. (John 1:3; Col. 1:16.)

Man – Mormonism teaches that all men are spirit children of God and His wives, and that men can become creator-Gods, who too will have spirit-children who will in turn worship them.

Man - Christianity believes what the Bible says – that God *created* man. Men were not **born** to Him. But **we must be born again of the Spirit to become God’s children.** (John 1:12.) Men will not become Gods. There is only one True God – there never will be an other God. (Isa. 43:10; 44:6, 8; 48:11-12.)

Salvation – Mormonism teaches that everyone, even those who don’t believe in God or Jesus Christ, will end up in some level of heaven, excepting former Mormons, those who have left the LDS church. Those who live a faithful Mormon-life will go to the highest kingdom (celestial kingdom), be exalted and become Gods.

Salvation according to the Bible is available to all, but only those who know the true Jesus, repent and are cleansed from their sins by His blood (1 John 1:7-9) will enter heaven for *“narrow is the gate that leads to eternal life”* and many will choose the wide gate that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12.) Salvation *“is the Gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Eph. 2:8-9.)

Salvation by grace alone in Mormonism means resurrection only, **not “true salvation” which is exaltation/godhood.** They teach: *“Immortality comes by grace alone, but those who gain it may find themselves damned in eternity.”* They say that all will be resurrected excepting the sons of perdition.

Salvation by grace alone is the only salvation taught in the Bible. We cannot add anything to it. Jesus paid it all. It is the gift of God, received through faith. (Eph. 2:8-9.)

Born-again according to Mormonism means water baptism **into the Mormon Church**, followed by *“laying on of hands by Mormon elders”* to receive the Holy Ghost. In addition to this water baptism – life-long obedience to the *“laws and ordinances of the LDS church”* is required to keep a person on his/her journey to the celestial kingdom. The LDS church teaches that *no one can be born again without baptism (into the Mormon Church) by their “legal administrator”* (meaning LDS priesthood holder).

Born-again (new birth) according to the Bible takes place when we by faith accept and understand that **Jesus Christ is God Almighty, and ask Him to forgive our sins,** and save us. (John 8:23-24.) Only Eternal God can forgive sins. The Spirit of God enters our hearts and lives at that very moment, never to depart (John 10:28-29) – no ordinances performed by any man is needed. (John 3:7; 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9.)

Marriage – “eternal marriage” in Mormonism is a temple-marriage *“for time and all eternity”*. It is a requirement for exaltation in the celestial kingdom. They teach that they will have *“eternal increase”*, i.e. give birth to spirit children throughout eternity. Men can have more than one wife in heaven. (See Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132.)

Marriage in Christianity is for this life only, established by God for procreation. (Gen. 1:28.) There is no marriage in heaven. (Matt. 22:30.)

Baptism in Mormonism is entrance **into the Mormon Church.** (See above the LDS meaning for *“Born-again”*.)

Baptism in Christianity is an outward expression of a person’s faith in the gospel of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4) – faith in His death, burial and resurrection . When a Christian is baptized, he/she is testifying of his/her faith in Christ’s finished work for salvation. *“Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:3-4.) **Christians are baptized “into Jesus Christ”, NOT into a church.**

Baptism for the dead. The Mormon Church teaches that just like all living persons **have to be baptized into the Mormon Church to be born again,** and endowed and sealed in their temples in order to gain the celestial kingdom, all dead also have to receive these same ordinances by proxy. Mormons say that they are doing *“redemptive work”* for the salvation of the dead. They teach that worthy dead Mormons go as missionaries from Paradise to Spirit Prison and preach Mormonism to the dead, and when the baptism is performed by proxy in Mormon temples, the

baptized dead can advance from Spirit Prison to Paradise. The Mormon Church bases this teaching in only one verse taken (out of context) from 1 Cor. 15:29, where *Paul asks a question why* there were some who were baptized for the dead, but who were not even believing in resurrection. Paul did not include himself nor those with him in this strange practice, but simply asked “*why are THEY then baptized for the dead?*”

Christians do not baptize or do work for the dead. The Bible says, “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*” (Hebr. 9:27.) After death comes judgment, not a second chance. Jesus, in Luke 16:19-31, taught that no one can go from one place of the dead to another, for “*between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*”(Verse 26.) That simply means: No missionary work can be done among the dead!

The Psalmist assured us that *no one can redeem another person, or give God a ransom for him.* (Ps. 49:7.) Salvation is individual and can only be obtained while living.

These are perhaps the most used terms, even though there are others, that cause confusion among Christians who talk with Mormons – and wise versa. Meaningful communication between people can only happen when the words used mean the same to both. Our standard dictionaries explain what words are intended to mean.

Mormons say that they are Christians, even though they do not believe in God of Christianity, nor Christian doctrine. What does our English dictionary say about that? It says that *Christian* is a person who believes Christian doctrine, based on the Bible (alone). It says that *Christianity* is based on the Bible (alone), and not on any other sacred books. Basic *Christian doctrine is belief in Trinity – One God*, which means Unity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as *three Persons in Godhead, not three Gods.*

Mormonism is a belief in polytheism – three Gods to this world and countless number of Gods in the universe. Mormon Doctrine, on pp. 576-577, explains: “*Three separate personages – Father, Son and the Holy Ghost – comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods.*”

Mormonism is not Christianity. Let’s get serious about bringing them to Jesus Christ of the Bible, who is God – and God alone can save.

From our mailbox:

-----We received a letter from another ministry asking us to answer this person who had written to them, who was communicating with an LDS man, and who had asked them to help him to answer his arguments. This is how this discussion went - my answers are below in plain text - his are in italics.

He wrote:

*“You seem to be knowledgeable in this area so I hope you don't mind me writing. Recently I presented a Mormon elder with a **direct quote regarding Brigham Young's "Adam God Theory" and asked the questions I included below. His reply was that Brigham Young did not actually teach the Adam God Theory** as recorded in the Journal of Discourses, April 9, 1852; that others incorrectly took notes of Young's lecture when giving his presentation, this false report spread, and that this report, never intended by*

Young, he says, was included in the Discourses. Furthermore, he insists it is merely an effort of anti-Mormons to discredit the true gospel.

How do you respond to this? I hope you can help me out as I am of the opinion this person is reasonable if I can ask the right follow-up questions. My approach has been to let him teach me, but I make it clear that **I will follow up with real investigation and hard**

questions; not to attack what he holds dear, but in an effort to give him a fair hearing. **The questions I asked from this LDS man are below.** Please advise me with references, or put me in contact with someone who is very familiar with this subject and line of reasoning. This person [I am talking with] is very influential in his congregation and area, but again I feel he might really re-think things based upon my experience thus far. J"

Question # 1

Why did Brigham Young teach that Adam was God under inspiration as the mediator of the **true gospel and church** if it isn't true? (Discourses, April 9, 1852)

Answer: Why did he teach that? **He taught it because he believed it.** He taught it publicly the first time in April conference 1852, and **continued teaching it till the end of his life** (August 1877). In other words **he taught it 25 years.** Brigham Young was an LDS prophet longer than anyone else, up to this date. If you want to read more sermons by Brigham and other leaders of the LDS church on Adam-God doctrine, you can go to our website (www.hismin.com) and check a list called '**Adam-God Doctrine and other man elevating doctrines**' (www.hismin.com/Adam-God01.html), as they recorded in the Journal of Discourses, 26-volumes, and in other books, diaries and papers of LDS leaders.

Question # 2.

Why did Spencer Kimball, 12th President of the LDS church, say Brigham Young's 'Adam-God theory' was false (Church News, Oct 9, 1976)?

Answer: The Mormon Church was being ridiculed about this doctrine - so Kimball announced that it was a 'false doctrine', even though they usually did not call it a doctrine but "Adam-God theory". However, it never was just a "theory" - **it was doctrine!** It still is, and one knows that it is if one has ever been a temple-Mormon. (In the Temple Ceremony's creation/organization part Jehovah and Michael/Adam together are creating/organizing the world under a command of Elohim (see: the 'Council of Gods' - **Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith**, p. 349). Doctrine and Covenants, Section 27:11 also says that **Adam** (i.e. Michael) **is the Ancient of Days** and reference is given to Daniel 7:9! **The Bible clearly teaches that the Ancient of Days IS GOD Almighty! Mormonism teaches that the Ancient of Days is Adam, and thus God!** (Same description as in Dan. 7:9 is also in Rev. 1:13-14.)

Question # 3.

"Why did Spencer Kimball say this Adam-God theory was '**alleged to have been taught by some of the General Authorities of past generations**', if it was a documented, and a well-known revelation imparted from Brigham Young (Church News, Oct 9, 1976)? Isn't this misleading, if not outright deceptive to say it was '**alleged to have been taught**' to common uninformed people like myself, **when it was known to have in fact been taught by the General Authorities of past generations, namely Brigham Young, et al**? Was the meat of the truth too much for underlings to handle when this was published?"

Answer: It is absolutely a misleading and deceptive statement - misleading and deceptive **on purpose!** During the 25 years Brigham taught it, and others taught even after him, **most understood it to be a doctrine** just fine. I have only read about 2 apostles (Orson Pratt and Francis Lyman) who, at first, had problem with that doctrine, but they were quickly silenced. Brigham was mad at Orson for many years over that issue. That doctrine did not stop being taught right after Brigham died - it continued to be taught for a long time, and as I have already mentioned, **it is still found in the D&C (27:11) and in the Temple Ceremony**. LDS apostle, Bruce R. McConkie **admitted that Brigham had taught that Adam is our God** (I can provide documentation for that), but he said that they must not talk about it.

Question # 4:

"Is it reasonable to assume that someone in Spencer Kimball's position was thoroughly familiar with Brigham Young's Adam-God inspiration in the Journal of Discourses, April 9, 1852? After all, Heber C. Kimball clearly understood Brigham Young's inspiration, '**The first man to be God**', (Journal of Discourses, 4:1).

Answer:

Many other LDS leaders during Brigham Young's time, and after, also taught that doctrine. **Wilford Woodruff, who later became a prophet of the church**, was particularly vocal and taught it often, so did Hosea Stout, **Heber C. Kimball** and other apostles. Church's publication, *Millennial Star* (see as example vol. 15, pp. 780, 801-804) had articles and statements about Adam being '**our Father and God**', and '**God and Father of all mankind**' (meaning father of their spirits). Spencer W. Kimball, as all leaders of the church, have to have known about it. It is ridiculous to even think that they would not have known!!! It became a detriment to the PR efforts of the church and for that reason it had to be publicly denounced.

Question # 5:

"Were those trusting in Brigham Young's Adam-God inspired revelation then not saved if Bruce McConkie's', '**There is no salvation in believing false doctrine, particularly a false or unwise view about the 'Godhead or any of its members**', is true? (See: *Our Relationship With The Lord*, p. 2.)

Answer:

Mormon doctrine is such that in reality **Mormons cannot be saved by following any of it** - then or now. Mormonism teaches of *another God* (gods) than God of the Bible, "*another Jesus*". **There is no salvation in any other** (Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 8:23-24; John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23.) **but only in Jesus of the Bible, who is God, Immanuel, and not a spirit-brother of Lucifer.** Jesus is the Creator of ALL THINGS, visible and invisible, including angels. (John 1:1-3; Col.1:16.)

Question # 6:

"Are those not accepting Brigham Young's Adam-God inspired revelation today not saved? In the context of putting forth this revelation, Brigham Young did say, **"Now let all who hear these doctrines pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damnation"**

Answer:

Brigham Young said the same over and over again, and as it was again recorded in Deseret News, **June 18th 1873, 21 years after he had started publicly teach it.** He said, **"How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regarding one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which God revealed to me - namely that Adam is our Father and God!"**

If Brigham had been a prophet of the real God, and the real God had been Adam, then all Mormons not believing it then or today, would be damned - but the truth of the matter is, of course, that Brigham was not any more a true prophet of the True God than was Joseph Smith or other 'prophets' of the LDS church after them. All Mormons simply must "*come away from them*" and be saved, as Paul wrote to Corinthians, who also had been idol-god worshippers. (2 Cor. 6:11-18.)

Question # 7:

"Which revelation is truly inspired, Young's or Spencer Kimball's? Both were esteemed to be the mediators of the **pure gospel of the perfect church** unto salvation. Both claim salvation is at stake by embracing or not embracing their respective view of God on this matter. And, McConkie says himself, **'There is no salvation in believing a false doctrine'.**"

Answer:

Indeed there is no salvation in believing false doctrine. We can see that not Young nor Kimball were "inspired" by God of the Bible. After studying Mormonism from their leadership's writings over 40 years, I can assure you that whatever "revelations" they claimed to have received, **they did not come from God of the Bible.** As Joseph Smith himself had declared, **"Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of man: and some revelations are of the devil."** (See: *Comprehensive History of the Church*, vol. 1:163.) Mormons may try to guess from which source their revelations may have originated - but **comparing their teachings to the Bible, we know they did not come from God of the Bible.** We

need to take heed of 1 Tim. 4:1 and 1 John 4:1 - and **test ALL THINGS by the Word of God, the Bible.** (1 Thess. 5:21.)

Question # 8:

"Doesn't it bother you that one of these represented groups, consisting of individuals with personal testimonies, we are led away in blind obedience by false doctrine, forever damned by the admission of its falseness by these general authorities themselves? Young, Kimball, McConkie, etc."

Answer:

These were the same issues that finally wakened us both (Dennis & Rauni) to the hard truth that we had been fooled and were following false prophets and leaders of the LDS church who had led us **after other gods**, as warned in Deut. 13:1-5, and after *"another Jesus and another gospel"*, witnessed by *"another spirit"*. (2 Cor. 11:4;13-15; Gal. 1:8-9.)

These contradictive teachings and issues **should bother any Thinking person**. But most of the Mormons are told not to think, but follow and obey, *"not to rely on historical facts, but on their feelings"* (so says LDS apostle Dallin Oaks). They call it feeling a "testimony", which they have received as they have listened to testimonies of others. A testimony is in reality of a creed or mantra repeated publicly to assure each other that they all believe the same. For this reason all LDS wards have monthly "testimony meeting" which are designed to assure each other that no matter how little proof, no proof, or inconsistency there is, **it is true nevertheless**. They are just to look for "good feelings" they call a "testimony". The Bible warns about feelings that come from our wicked hearts (Jer. 19:7). (Prov. 14:12), *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* The Bible also warns us about those who do not teach according to God's Word and follow lying (false) prophets. (Isa. 15:20; 9:15b-16), **"To the law and the testimony, IF they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them...the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed."**

Question # 9:

"Are there other "reversals" that are/were condemning in nature that you should in all honesty and integrity explain?"

Answer:

On our website we have a list of 53 failed prophecies of Joseph Smith. The biblical requirement for a prophet of God is 100% accuracy 100% of the time. (Deut. 18:20-22.) You may want to sample an example of many false prophecies of Joseph Smith from D&C 84:1-5;101:17-21. In the light of Deut. 18:20-22, that, multiplied by 53, should be enough for you to see that Joseph Smith was not a prophet of God.

Question # 10:

"If I can't be sure about the inspiration as recorded in the Discourses April 9, 1852 and Kimball's refuting inspiration of 1976, how can I in a pure conscience accept anything, "milk or meat" in blind obedience as spiritually binding in the future?"

Answer:

No reasonable thinking person would accept any of that!

Question # 11:

Is it really fair, or honest to say the LDS church is perfect and that all others should be rejected on that basis?"

Answer:

There is a lot more to this story than is shown here. Mormonism is false - but sadly, many still follow, for they have bought the enticing lie of the devil, "Ye shall be as gods". (Gen. 3:5.)

That is what the devil himself had wanted - "to be like the Most High God". (Isa. 14:12-14.) He appeals to the pride of man, and a proposed "godhood", if once accepted, is hard to give up...

Paul wrote a warning in Romans 1:22-23, "**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**"...

That is what Joseph Smith did, but not at the beginning of Mormonism, in 1830, he did it 14 years later, in 1844, **after** he had gained a sizable following. In 1844 he led his people "after other gods" as is warned of in Deut. 13:1-5.

Joseph Smith said, in April 7, 1844, "God himself was once as we are now, and is an **exalted man... We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, same as all Gods have done before you...**" (Teachings, pp.345-346.)

If you have further questions, please write again.

Sincerely, Rauni Higley. Email: hismin@xmission.com

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We have had 3 classes (of 10 planned) already at Calvary Chapel - teaching *Understanding Mormonism*. We have a very good group of people - just as we have always had - the difference with this group is that more than one half of the class members have no personal connection to Mormonism - most are new to Salt Lake City, and they wanted to know what Mormonism is all about. I am sure that they will give some new insight to our Q/A time.

We would like to ask you to continue to pray for Bruce, Judy, Edward, and John - for strength in their trials, plus for a couple of others who do not want their names mentioned. Pray also for Al, Jason, Landon, Jack, Rich, Paul, Christopher, Eric and Barry for their minds to be freed from bondage to Mormonism so

that they will be able to see and accept the biblical truth and come to know JESUS, who is God and who loves them.

My health has not been the best. I will have an MRI on Tuesday (10/02) for breast cancer screening. Please pray that the test will show no cancer, for it would be a lot of extra stress for Dennis to work for living and also to try to keep up with a class and all the other ministry things that demand so much from both of us, if I was seriously ill. We know that our God is a God who can heal, if it is in His will.

Please pray for our finances too - ministry account is in "red", but we do not sweat, for we serve the Lord who is in control of everything. ***There are times like this that we need to be reminded of our total dependence on Him. He will direct His own on what to do.***

We do thank you for being our partners in helping Mormons to see the Light of God's love and come to Jesus who is our Lord, and be saved. You all are in our daily prayers.

We serve Him with gladness.

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