

OVERVIEW OF MORMONISM



KEY PERSON, DATE, LOCATION

JOSEPH SMITH, JR (1805-1844) ORGANIZED WHAT IS NOW THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS) IN 1830 NEAR ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
HEADQUARTERS IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

KEY WRITINGS

THE BOOK OF MORMON, DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS, PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, PLUS THE BIBLE (KING JAMES VERSION ONLY OR SMITH'S "INSPIRED VERSION") WHICH IS SEEN AS LESS RELIABLE

AUTHORITATIVE TEACHINGS OF MORMON PROPHETS AND OTHER LDS "GENERAL AUTHORITIES"

ENSIGN AND LIAHONA MAGAZINES

WHO IS GOD?

GOD THE FATHER WAS ONCE A MAN, BUT "PROGRESSED" TO GODHOOD
HE HAS A PHYSICAL BODY, AS DOES HIS WIFE (HEAVENLY MOTHER)
NO TRINITY

THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST ARE THREE SEPERATE GODS
WORTHY MEMBERS MAY ONE DAY BECOME "EXALTED" TO GODHOOD THEMSELVES

WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS IS A SEPARATE GOD FROM THE FATHER (ELOHIM)

JESUS WAS CREATED AS A SPIRIT CHILD BY THE FATHER AND MOTHER IN HEAVEN, AND IS THE "ELDER BROTHER" OF ALL MEN AND SPIRIT BEINGS (INCLUDING LUCIFER)

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

THE “HOLY SPIRIT” IS DIFFERENT FROM THE “HOLY GHOST”

THE “HOLY SPIRIT” IS NOT GOD, BUT IS AN INFLUENCE OR ELECTRICITY-EMANATION FROM GOD (OR “LIGHT OF CHRIST”)

HOW TO BE SAVED

RESURRECTED BY GRACE, BUT SAVED (EXALTED TO GODHOOD) BY WORKS, INCLUDING FAITHFULNESS TO CHURCH LEADERS, MORMON BAPTISM, TITHING, ORDINATION, MARRIAGE, AND SECRET TEMPLE RITUALS

NO ETERNAL LIFE WITHOUT MORMON MEMBERSHIP

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

EVENTUALLY, NEARLY EVERYONE GOES TO ONE OF THREE SEPARATE HEAVENLY “KINGDOMS” WITH SOME ACHIEVING GODHOOD

APOSTATES AND MURDERERS GO TO “OUTER DARKNESS”

OTHER FACTS, BELIEFS, OR PRACTICES

SECRET TEMPLE “ENDOWMENT” RITUALS AND “CELESTIAL MARRIAGE” AVAILABLE ONLY TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

BAPTISM ON BEHALF OF THE DEAD

“WORDS OF WISDOM” PROHIBITS TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND (PREVIOUSLY) CAFFEINE DRINKS

TWO-YEAR MISSIONARY COMMITMENT ENCOURAGED

TITHING ESSENTIAL

DOOR-TO-DOOR PROSELYTIZING

EXTENSIVE SOCIAL NETWORK

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY DENIED FULL ACCESS TO MORMON PRIESTHOOD AND PRIVILEGES UNTIL 1978