

# What Do Mormons Believe About GOD ?

## **A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SHORT STUDY IS TO EXAMINE, AS FAIRLY AS POSSIBLE, WHAT THE MORMONS BELIEVE ABOUT GOD COMPARED WITH WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GOD. WE HAVE TRIED TO PRESENT THE MORMON POINT OF VIEW AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE, WHICH IS RATHER DIFFICULT IN SOME AREAS DUE TO WHAT APPEAR TO BE CONTRADICTORY CONCEPTS, BOTH SIDES OF WHICH COME FROM ACCEPTABLE AND OFFICIAL SOURCES WITHIN MORMONISM.

THE PRIMARY INTENT OF THIS MATERIAL IS NOT TO ATTACK MORMONISM, BUT TO PRESENT A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON TWO OPPOSING CONCEPTS OF GOD. ANY INACCURACY OR WHAT MAY APPEAR TO BE SARCASM OR RIDICULE IS UNINTENTIONAL. OUR GOAL IS TO PRESENT BOTH POSITIONS AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE AND ALLOW THE SEEKER TO SELECT THAT WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE TRUE. HOWEVER, WE MAKE NO PRETENSE OF BEING UNBIASED, ONLY A DESIRE TO BE FAIR AND ACCURATE BOTH WITH MORMONISM AND THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE.

REMEMBER: THE ISSUE IS NOT WHO IS RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS TRUE!!

## What Do Mormons Believe About God ?

### SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

MORMONS BELIEVE:	THE BIBLE SAYS:
There are an <u>Infinite number</u> of "Gods"	There is only <u>ONE GOD</u> (in 3 persons)
These gods are flesh and bone and thus are <u>confined</u> to a position in space at any given moment of time.	God is a spirit <u>unconfined</u> by the limitations and <u>boundaries</u> of space and time.
God (Adam) and all the other gods are merely <u>exalted men</u> , thus they are not omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, sovereign, immutable, ...	God has <u>not</u> advanced from a state of mortality to immortality but is <u>eternally sovereign, immutable, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, righteousness, infinitude, ...</u>
Jesus Christ is a <u>god</u> whose spiritual and physical father is Adam god.	Jesus the Christ is <u>Jehovah Elohim</u> , the 2nd person of the triune Godhead, who became a man for the purpose of redeeming man back to Himself.
The Holy Ghost (Spirit) is an " <u>immaterial personage</u> " (yet, an "immaterial being <u>cannot</u> exist"), a god among an infinite number of gods; OR He or it is a substance, a fluid or a person depending upon what source you use.	The Holy Spirit is <u>God, co-equal</u> with the Father and the Son, whose function in the Christian is to glorify Christ.
Salvation is a <u>mixture of faith and human works</u> . <u>All men are saved</u> to a degree.	Salvation is by <u>GRACE</u> (God's unmerited favor) and by <u>GRACE alone</u> . It comes through acceptance <u>by faith</u> of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice upon the cross. Those who <u>reject Christ</u> and His shed blood as the <u>total payment</u> for their sins are <u>separated (lost)</u> from God forever.

**NOTE:**

**BOTH OF THESE POSITIONS CANNOT BE TRUE FOR TRUTH CANNOT CONTRADICT ITSELF.**

**REMEMBER: THE ISSUE IS NOT WHO IS RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS RIGHT AND TRUE!!!  
YOUR ETERNAL POSITION IN RELATION TO GOD RESTS IN YOUR SELECTION OF THE TRUTH!!!**

## What Do the Mormons Believe About God?

### DO MORMONS BELIEVE IN MORE THAN ONE GOD?

- "GODS exist, and we had better strive to prepare to be one with them." *DISCOURSES OF BRIGHAM YOUNG, Page 351*  
 "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" *Apostle Orson Pratt in THE SEER, Volume 1, page 37*
- "In the beginning the head of the GODS called a council of the GODS and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and the people in it." *THE JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Vol VI, Sermon by Prophet Joseph Smith*
- "And then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they (the GODS) organized and formed the heavens and the earth" *BOOK OF ABRAHAM, Chap.4, Vs 1*

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MORMONS BELIEVE IN MANY, MANY GODS. LET'S BACK UP AND GET A BROADER PICTURE OF THIS WHOLE POLYTHEISTIC CONCEPT.

ACCORDING TO MORMON THEOLOGY; Previous to the creation of our present earth the GODS in heaven were called into council by the "head god." (NOTE: Each GOD had worked his way through humanness or mortality in another physical/material world to the position of deity) Adam, one of these gods, and one of his wives, Eve, were assigned to head up this new world, to become mortal again, to "fall," and to provide physical bodies, through sexual reproduction, to house the many spirit children they and the other gods had produced in heaven.

Francis M. Darter, a High Priest in the Mormon Church in his book, *CELESTIAL MARRIAGE*, pages 17 & 18 says,

- "(Adam & Eve) ages before, they lived and died as all mortals and were saved in a Celestial glory. There, in the course of an age, they became the father and mother of countless spiritual children. These spiritual children no doubt also included those from other wives of Adam and from his sons and grandsons saved in the same degree of Celestial glory with Adam. The Gods met, and Adam was set apart to be the God of a new world soon to be created."
- "In the Book of Mormon we read, 'Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy;' that is, we must pass through mortality before we can enjoy a Celestial glory. They, Adam and Eve, were immortal beings, but says Eliza R. Snow (wife of Joseph Smith), 'They ate of the trees of mortal life and partook of the elements of this earth that they might again become mortal for their children's sake. They fell that another world might have a probation, redemption and resurrection.'" *(WOMEN OF MORMONISM, by Eliza R. Snow)*

The goal of every good Mormon male is to work his way up to deity in the hope that someday, like Adam, he too might have a planet like earth to rule.

### DO MORMONS BELIEVE IN MORE THAN ONE GOD??? (CONTINUED)

NOTE: IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT A CHRISTIAN STUDYING MORMONISM REALIZE THAT THEIR POLYTHEISTIC DOCTRINES ARE NOT OPENLY EXPRESSED TO THE NON-MORMON WORLD AND THAT MORMONS WILL TRY TO CONCEAL THESE BELIEFS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY FEEL ANY PERSON BEING PROSELYTED IS WELL WITHIN THEIR INFLUENCE.

ALSO NOTE HOW IN THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES THEIR OWN BOOK OF MORMON APPEARS TO SAY THE SAME AS THE BIBLE IN REGARD TO MONOTHEISM (THE BELIEF IN ONLY ONE GOD). YOU MAY, ON OCCASION, BE ABLE TO USE THESE MONOTHEISTIC VERSES IN DEMONSTRATING TO A MORMON THE APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN HIS VERY OWN SACRED WRITINGS AND THE DOCTRINES OF HIS CHURCH AS WELL AS SHOWING HIM THE BASIS FOR BELIEVING IN ONLY ONE GOD.

### IS THERE MORE THAN ONE GOD?

THE BOOK OF MORMON SAYS:	THE BIBLE SAYS:
<i>ALMA 11:21,22,26-29</i> "And this Zeezrom began to question Amulek, saying: Will ye answer me a few questions which I shall ask you? Now Zeezrom was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil, that he might destroy that which was good; therefore, he said unto Amulek: Will ye answer the questions which I shall put unto you? And Amulek said unto him: Yea, if it be according to the Spirit of the Lord, which is in me; for I shall say nothing which is contrary to the Spirit of the Lord. And Zeezrom said unto him: Behold, here are six onties of silver, and of these will I give thee if thou wilt deny the existence of a Supreme Being. ... And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: <u>IS THERE MORE THAN ONE GOD?</u> And he answered, <u>NO.</u> "	<i>ISAIAH 43:10</i> "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He; BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME."
	<i>ISAIAH 44:6</i> "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST, AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO GOD."
	<i>ISAIAH 45:5</i> "I AM THE LORD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE, THERE IS NO GOD BESIDE ME (Besides Me there is NO GOD)."
	<i>ISAIAH 45:6</i> "... THERE IS NONE BESIDE ME. I AM THE LORD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE."
	<i>DEUTERONOMY 4:35</i> "... the Lord, He is God; THERE IS NO OTHER BESIDES HIM."
	<i>1 TIMOTHY 2:5</i> "For there is ONE God, ..."

NOW THAT WE HAVE SEEN THE POLYTHEISTIC NATURE OF MORMON DOCTRINE LET US EXAMINE THEIR CONCEPT OF THE NATURE OF GOD.

## What Do Mormons Believe About God?

DO MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD IS A SPIRIT BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THE FLESH, OR DO THEY BELIEVE HE HAS THE LIMITATIONS OF THE FLESH LIKE WE DO - IS GOD FLESH AND BONES WITH A BODY SUCH AS MAN HAS?

- "The Father has a body of flesh and bone 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 ..." *DOCTRINES & COVENANTS*, Sec. 130:22
- "Each of these gods, including Jesus Christ and His Father, being in possession of not merely an organized spirit but a glorious body of flesh and bone ..." *KEY TO THE SCIENCE OF THEOLOGY*, page 42, by Parley Pratt
- "We affirm that to deny the materiality of God's person is to deny God; for a thing without parts has no whole, and an immaterial body cannot exist. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints proclaims against the incomprehensible God devoid of 'body, parts or passions' as a thing impossible of existence, and asserts its belief in and allegiance to the true and living God of scripture and Revelation ..." *from THE ARTICLES OF FAITH* by James E. Talmage

FROM THE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS ABOVE IT IS PLAIN TO SEE THAT MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD IS FLESH AND BONES AND THUS CONFINED TO THE LIMITATIONS OF FLESH AND BONE - THAT IS, HE CANNOT BE OMNIPRESENT AS THE BIBLE CLAIMS HIM TO BE. (See Joshua 1:9; Psm.139:7-10; Prov.15:3; Jer.23:24; Acts 17:27 1 Kings 8:27; ...) THE MORMON POSITION ON THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD IS MADE VERY CLEAR IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

- "It has been said, therefore, that God is everywhere; this does not mean that the actual person of any one member of the godhead can be physically present in more than one place at one time ... Admitting the personality of God, we are compelled to accept the fact of His materiality; indeed an immaterial being, under which meaningless name some have sought to designate the condition of God, cannot exist; for the very expression is a contradiction of terms. If God possesses a form, that form is of necessity of definite proportions, and therefore of limited extension and space. It is IMPOSSIBLE for him to occupy at one time more than one space of such limits."

*THE ARTICLES OF FAITH* by James E. Talmage, pages 42, 43

WE KNOW THE BIBLE PRESENTS AND PROCLAIMS GOD AS A SPIRIT AND CERTAINLY NOT AS BEING CONFINED TO A CREATED PHYSICAL/MATERIAL BODY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES TO GOD HAVING FINGERS, HANDS, FEET, EYES, NOSTRILS, MOUTH, ETC. AND THE MORMONS HAVE USED THESE ANTHROPOMORPHISMS TO SUPPORT THEIR CONTENTION THAT GOD IS FLESH AND BONE. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE HEBREW LANGUAGE AND STYLE OF SPEECH AND WRITING IS EXTREMELY METAPHORICAL AND THUS IN INSTANCE AFTER INSTANCE RESORTS TO METAPHORS AND SIMILES TO DESCRIBE GOD. TO MAINTAIN, AS THE MORMONS DO, THAT THE BIBLICAL ANTHROPOMORPHISMS (PICTURING GOD WITH HUMAN ATTRIBUTES) PROVE GOD IS FLESH AND BONE PUTS THEM INTO A VERY FRAGILE AND VULNERABLE POSITION, FOR GOD IS ALSO PRESENTED METAPHORICALLY AS A BIRD (*Psm.61:4, 91:4, ...*), AS A ROCK (*Psm.18:2; 92:15; ...*), AS A FIRE (*Heb.12:29; ...*), ...

## IS GOD FLESH AND BONES OR IS HE SPIRIT? (CONTINUED)

IT'S INTERESTING TO COMPARE CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON WITH THE BIBLE RELATIVE TO GOD BEING A SPIRIT. BOTH SAY HE IS A SPIRIT (NOT HAS A SPIRIT) WHICH AGAIN POINTS UP CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN THE MORMON DOCTRINAL SCHEME.

### IS GOD FLESH AND BONE OR IS HE SPIRIT ONLY?

THE BOOK OF MORMON SAYS:	THE BIBLE SAYS:
<p><i>ALMA 18:24-28</i> "And Ammon began to speak unto him with boldness, and said unto him: Believest thou that there is a God? And he answered, and said unto him: I do not know what that meaneth. And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a <u>Great Spirit</u>? And he said, Yea. And Ammon said: <u>This is God</u>. And Ammon said unto him again: Believest thou that this <u>Great Spirit, who is God, created all things</u> which are in heaven and in earth? And he said: Yea, ..."</p>	<p><i>JOHN 4:24</i> "God IS A SPIRIT; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."  <i>JOHN 3:6</i> "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."  <i>LUKE 24:39</i> "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a SPIRIT HATH NOT FLESH AND BONES, as ye see me have."  <i>1 CORINTHIANS 15:50</i> "Now this I say brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; ..."</p>
<p><i>ALMA 22:9-11</i> "And the king said: Is <u>God</u> that <u>Great Spirit</u> that brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem? And Aaron said unto him: Yea, he is that <u>Great Spirit</u>, and he <u>created</u> all things both in heaven and in earth. Believest thou this? And he said: Yea, I believe that the <u>Great Spirit</u> created all things, and I desire that ye should tell me concerning all these things, and I will believe thy words."</p>	

FROM OUR STUDY SO FAR IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MORMON CONCEPT OF GOD'S NATURE AND THE PURELY BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF THE NATURE OF GOD.

In dealing with Mormons it is important to continually delineate the following question: WHICH IS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO YOU, THE TRUTH ITSELF (truth seeking), OR, WHO IS RIGHT OR WRONG (Protestants or Mormons)? Concern only for who is right or wrong rather than for the truth itself places a person into the category of pseudo-truthseeking.

IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH ITSELF (TRUTH SEEKING) THEN THE NEXT ISSUE TO EXAMINE IS: "IS GOD MERELY AN EXALTED MAN, OR, IS HE THE IMMUTABLE (UNCHANGING), ETERNAL, PERFECT, ALL-KNOWLEDING AND INFINITELY HOLY AND COMPLETELY RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT-GOD OF THE BIBLE??"

## What Do Mormons Believe About God?

DO MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD IS MERELY AN EXALTED MAN, OR, IS HE THE IMMUTABLE (UNCHANGING), ETERNAL, PERFECT, ALL-KNOWING AND INFINITELY HOLY AND COMPLETELY RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT-GOD OF THE BIBLE ???

- "God was once as we are now and is an exalted man ..."

THE TEACHINGS OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH by Joseph F. Smith, page 345 cf., THE JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Volume VI, page 3

- "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 and our God and the only God with whom we have to do." Brigham Young, in THE JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Volume I, page 50

- "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

Lorenzo Snow, former president of the Mormon Church, MILLENNIAL STAR, Volume 54, also THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE AGES by Milton R. Hunter, pp. 105,106

- "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, Volume I, page 123

- "Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the eternal father was once a mortal man who passed through the school of earth-life similar to that through which we are now passing. He became God - an exalted being, through obedience to the same eternal gospel truth that we are given opportunity today to obey."

THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE AGES, Milton R. Hunter, Chap. 16, pp.105,105

THE MORMONS SEE GOD ONLY AS AN EXALTED MAN. ALSO THEY VIEW HIM MERELY AS A CO-CREATOR OR SUB-CREATOR, NOT AS THE CREATOR OF THE BIBLE. IN FACT, TO THE MORMON, GOD THE FATHER IS THE SAME ADAM GENESIS SAYS THE LORD GOD (JEHOVAH ELOHIM) FORMED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 2:4-7FF).

IN SUMMARY, WE FIND THAT MORMONISM TEACHES IN PLACE OF THE IMMUTABLE AND INFINITE GOD OF PURE SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE, A FLESH-AND-BONE DEITY, A CREATED AND LESS THAN OMNISCIENT AND OMNIPOTENT DEITY WHO IS SIMPLY ONE OF A PAN-TEON OF GODS IN INFINITE STAGES OF PROGRESSION. TO THEM, GOD IS RESTRICTED TO A NARROW, RATIONALISTIC, MATERIALISTIC AND FINITE MOLD. THE GOD OF MORMONISM CANNOT BE INCOMPREHENSIBLE, TRANSCENDENT, SELF-EXISTENT, SELF-SUFFICIENT NOR SOVEREIGN. THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS FAR, FAR BEYOND THE LITTLE RESTRICTED GODS OF MORMONISM. HE SAYS OF HIMSELF, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord (YHWH). For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9. HE IS THE ONE AND ONLY GOD AND HE IS OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT, OMNIPRESENT, IMMUTABLE AND SOVEREIGN - HE IS THE CREATOR GOD.

DO MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD IS MERELY AN EXALTED MAN??? (CONTINUED)

EVEN THOUGH THE BIBLICAL POSITION IS CLEAR AND CONSISTENT WE FIND APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE MORMON POSITION ON A LIMITED, FLESHLY GOD AND THEIR VERY OWN BOOK OF MORMON.

IS GOD IMMUTABLE, ETERNAL, OMNISCIENT, OMNIPRESENT AND OMNIPOTENT OR IS HE MERELY AN EXALTED MAN???

THE BOOK OF MORMON SAYS:	THE BIBLE SAYS:
<p><b>MORMON 9:9-11</b> "For do we not read that God is the <u>same</u> yesterday, today and forever, and in him there is <u>no variableness neither shadow of changing</u>? And now if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves <u>a god who is not a God of miracles</u>. But behold, I will show unto you a God of miracles, even the God of Abraham, and the God of Jacob; and it is that same God who created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are."</p> <p><b>MORMON 9:19</b> "And if there were miracles wrought then, why has God ceased to be a God of miracles and yet be <u>an unchangeable Being</u>? And behold, I say unto you <u>he changeth not</u>; if so he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles."</p> <p><b>MORONI 8:18</b> "For I know that God is not a partial God, <u>neither a changeable being</u>; but <u>he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity</u>."</p> <p><b>MORONI 7:22</b> "For behold, God knoweth <u>all things</u>, being from <u>everlasting to everlasting</u>."</p> <p><b>ALMA 26:35</b> "Now have we not reason to rejoice? Yea, I say unto you, there never were men that had so great reason to rejoice as we, since the world began; yea, and my joy is carried away, even unto boasting in my <u>God</u>; for he has <u>all power, all wisdom, and all understanding</u>; he <u>comprehendeth all things</u>, and he is a merciful Being, even unto salvation, to those who repent and believe on his name."</p>	<p><b>MALACHI 3:6</b> "For I am the Lord, I <u>change not</u>; ..."</p> <p><b>HEBREWS 13:8</b> "Jesus Christ, the <u>same</u> yesterday, and today, and forever."</p> <p><b>JAMES 1:17</b> "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is <u>no variableness, neither shadow of turning</u>."</p> <p><b>PSALM 147:5</b> "Great is our Lord, and of great power; His understanding is infinite."</p> <p><b>PROVERBS 15:3</b> "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."</p> <p><b>HEBREWS 4:13</b> "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."</p> <p><b>LUKE 1:37</b> "For with God nothing shall be impossible."</p>

FROM THESE REFERENCES WE CAN SEE THAT ACCORDING TO PORTIONS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON AND THE BIBLE AS A WHOLE GOD IS IMMUTABLE (UNCHANGING), OMNISCIENT, OMNIPRESENT AND OMNIPOTENT, YET MORMONISM TEACHES OTHERWISE. CAN TRUTH CONTRADICT THE TRUTH? MUST NOT ALL TRUTH BE IN TOTAL HARMONY?

WITH THIS, LET US MOVE ON TO FINDING OUT WHO JESUS CHRIST IS ACCORDING TO MORMONISM.

## What Do Mormons Believe About God?

### ACCORDING TO MORMONISM, WHO IS JESUS CHRIST???

AS WE LOOK AT MORMON CHRISTOLOGY (THE STUDY & CONCEPT OF CHRIST) WE WILL FIND CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS TO HIS NATURE AND HIS ORIGIN. I.E.

- "Christ was the God, the father of all things ... behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son." MOSIAH 7:27 and ETHER 3:14
- "And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen." THE TESTIMONY OF THE THREE WITNESSES in the front of the BOOK OF MORMON - Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris
- "Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are only one God! I say this is a strange God anyhow ... all are to be crammed into one God ..." Joseph Smith as recorded in E.F. Parry's JOSEPH SMITH'S TEACHINGS. page 55ff
- "... Jesus is the Christ, the ETERNAL GOD, ... From the Title Page of THE BOOK OF MORMON
- "... Jesus Christ is the son of Elohim, 'the spiritual and bodily offspring'; that is to say, Elohim is literally the father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also the body in which Jesus Christ performed his mission in the flesh ... Jehovah, who is Jesus Christ the Son of Elohim (Adam), is called 'the father' ... that Jesus Christ whom we also know as Jehovah, was the executive of the father, Elohim, in the work of creation set forth in the book JESUS THE CHRIST, chapter IV, pages 48, 466, 467." THE ARTICLES OF FAITH by James E. Talmage

NOTE: Talmage falls into the error of making Elohim (Mighty One) and Jehovah (YHWH - "I am that I am" - Ex.3:13,14) two separate gods, apparently in complete ignorance of the fact that the two are compounded in the Hebrew as YHWH the MIGHTY ONE (LORD God) as any concordance of Hebrew usage in the Old Testament readily reveals. (See Gen.24:7; 28:13; Ex.3:15,18; 4:5; 5:1; 7:5; ...)

IT SHOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO LEARN THAT LUCIFER (SATAN), WHO WAS A SPIRIT BROTHER OF JESUS PRIOR TO HIS INCARNATION, FELL FROM HEAVEN BECAUSE OF HIS JEALOUSY OF CHRIST. CHRIST WAS APPOINTED BY THE GODS TO BECOME THE REDEEMER OF THE RACE THAT WOULD FALL AS A RESULT OF ADAM'S INTENTIONAL SIN. ("They ate of the trees of mortal life, and partook of the elements of this earth that they might again become mortal for their children's sake. They fell that another world might have a probation, redemption and resurrection." WOMEN OF MORMONISM by Eliza R. Snow, wife of Joseph Smith). IT WAS TO CHRIST'S APPOINTED OFFICE OF REDEEMER TO WHICH LUCIFER ASPIRED, THUS HIS ANTI-PATHY. LUCIFER IS EVEN QUOTED AS SAYING: "Behold, here am I, send me. I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thy honor." (Chapter 4 of the BOOK OF MOSES, found in THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, catalogs all of these events, including the fall of Satan and the establishment of the Garden of Eden (chapter 6) which you will be surprised to learn was really located in Missouri and not in the area of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers)

IN MORMON THEOLOGY, CHRIST AS A PRE-EXISTENT SPIRIT WAS NOT ONLY THE BROTHER OF THE DEVIL BUT CELEBRATED HIS OWN MARRIAGE TO "...both Marys and to Martha, whereby he could see his seed before he was crucified." (Apostle Orson Hyde, See J. W. Gunnison, THE MORMONS, page 68, and J. H. Snowden, THE TRUTH ABOUT MORMONISM, 1926, page 130)

THE BIBLE STATES VERY SUCCINCTLY THAT CHRIST WAS CONCEIVED IN THE VIRGIN MARY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:35), YET NOTICE BRIGHAM YOUNG'S CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT: "When the virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who was the father? He was the first of the human family ... 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 (Adam)." (JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, Vol. I, pages 50 and 51)

AS WE WILL FIND IN THE FOLLOWING; BOTH THE BOOK OF MORMON AND THE BIBLE STATE THAT JESUS IS JEHOVAH GOD COME IN THE FLESH TO DIE FOR MAN'S SINS. HOWEVER, THAT APPARENT AGREEMENT IS ONLY THE INTERSECTION OF TWO CONCEPTS COMING FROM TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND THUS DO NOT REALLY MEAN THE SAME THING.

### IS JESUS CHRIST (THE) GOD ???

THE BOOK OF MORMON SAYS:	THE BIBLE SAYS:
ALMA 11:38,39 "Now Zeezrom saith again unto him: <u>Is the Son of God the very Eternal Father?</u> And Amulek said unto him: <u>Yea, he is the very Eternal Father</u> of heaven and of earth, and all things which in them are; he is the beginning and the end, the first and the last; ..."	EXODUS 3:14 "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."
MOSIAH 15:2-5 "And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, <u>being the Father and the Son</u> - The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son - And they are ONE God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth. And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being ONE God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and cast out, and disowned by his people."	JOHN 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was I AM."
3 NEPHI 9:15 "Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. <u>I created</u> the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me;"	JOHN 10:30 "I and my Father are ONE."
3 NEPHI 11:14 "Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."	JOHN 1:1,3,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him (the Word); and without Him was not anything made that was made. And the Word was made (became) flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."
3 NEPHI 11:17 "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him."	

## What Do Mormons Believe About God?

ACCORDING TO MORMONISM, WHAT IS THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

THE BIBLE IDENTIFIES THE HOLY SPIRIT (HOLY GHOST TO THE MORMONS) AS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD. HE IS CO-EQUAL WITH THE FATHER AND WITH THE SON. HE IS THE PERSON OF GOD WHO INDWELLS THE BELIEVER (John 14:17; 1 Cor.6:19,20; ...) IN ORDER TO CONVICT (John 16:8-11; ...), INSTRUCT (John 14:26; ...), COMFORT (Romans 8:26,27; ...), INTERPRET AND DISCERN GOD'S DIVINE WILL (1 Cor.2:10-14; ...) HE SEEKS CONSTANTLY TO WORK THROUGH BELIEVERS TO TOUCH OTHER BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS WITH DIVINE TRUTH, CONVICTION AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. HE IS THE AUTHOR AND SOURCE OF ANY AND ALL DIVINE GOOD MANIFESTED THROUGH THE BELIEVER (Gal.5:22,23; ...) AND ALSO HE IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN LEAD ANYONE TO CHRIST (THE BELIEVER IS SIMPLY TO BE AN AVAILABLE CHANNEL).

NOW LET'S LOOK AT HOW THE MORMONS VIEW THE HOLY GHOST OR HOLY SPIRIT:

- "The term Holy Ghost and its common synonyms, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, or simply Spirit, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth occur in the Scriptures with plainly different meanings, referring in some cases to the person of God the Holy Ghost, and in other instances to the power and authority of this great personage, or to the agency through which He ministers ... The Holy Ghost undoubtedly possesses personal powers and affections; these attributes exist in Him in perfection. Thus He teaches and guides, testifies of the Father and the Son, reproves, rebukes, speaks, commands, commissions ... These are not figurative expressions but plain statements of the attributes and characteristics of the Holy Ghost." from THE ARTICLES OF FAITH by James E. Talmage - p.115

IF WE STOPPED HERE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE IF ANY WITH WHICH WE COULD ARGUE, HOWEVER, IF WE PRESS ON INTO THE MORMON CONCEPT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (GHOST) WE FIND CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND SOME CONTRADICTION.

ON THE ONE HAND MORMONS SAY:

- (The Holy Ghost) is a "personage of Spirit," one of the Mormon gods according to DOCTRINES AND COVENANTS.

BUT THEY ALSO SAY:

- YET IN President Charles Penrose's book MORMON DOCTRINE (Salt Lake City, 1888), he refers to the Holy Ghost as being an "it" over twenty times, devoid of personality. i.e. "The possessor of the Holy Ghost is infinitely rich; those who receive it can lose it, and are of all men the poorest, but there are various degrees of its possession. Many who obtain it walk, but measurably, in its light. But there are few who live by its whisperings and approach by its mediumship into close communion with heavenly beings of the highest order. To them, its light grows brighter every day" (pp.18,19)

THE NATURE AND FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED):

ON THE ONE HAND MORMONS SAY:

- "He (the Holy Ghost) is an immaterial being possessed of a spiritual form and definite proportions." from THE ARTICLES OF FAITH by James E. Talmage  
See also DOCTRINE & COVENANTS Chapter 20, verse 28

BUT THEY ALSO SAY:

- "... an immaterial being, under which meaningless name some have sought to designate the condition of God, cannot exist; for the very expression is a contradiction of terms." from THE ARTICLES OF FAITH by James E. Talmage, pp.42,43

NOW IF THE ABOVE DOESN'T CONFUSE YOU AS TO WHAT MORMONS BELIEVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

- "Jesus Christ ... was filled with the divine substance or fluid called the Holy Spirit, by which He comprehended and spake the truth in power and authority, and by which He controlled the elements and imparted health and life to those who were prepared to partake of the same ... The purest, most refined and subtle of all these substances and the one least understood or even recognized by the less informed among mankind is that substance called the Holy Spirit." \*

KEY TO THEOLOGY by Parley P. Pratt (the eminent Mormon theologian), pages 38,46

- \* Some Mormons quoting early Mormon writers have attempted to differentiate between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost. This, however, is linguistically impossible in New Testament Greek as any lexicon will reveal.

PARLEY P. PRATT CAN CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL SOURCE OF MORMON THEOLOGY AND A MAN WHOSE WRITINGS ARE STILL CIRCULATED TODAY BY HIS CHURCH AS AUTHORITATIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE. YET PARLEY P. PRATT PRESENTS THE HOLY SPIRIT (GHOST) AS A CONFUSING MIXTURE OF SUBSTANCE, FLUID AND A PERSON.

The Bible, however, consistently portrays God the Holy Spirit, Third person of the Trinity, as an eternal, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Being, sharing all the attributes of deity and one with the Father and the Son.

MORMONS ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, CONFUSED AND DIVIDED ON THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (GHOST). ALSO, AS WE PREVIOUSLY DISCOVERED, MORMONISM HAS REPLACED THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN MARY'S PREGNANCY WITH JESUS (Matt.1:18-20; Luke 1:35) AND PROCLAIMED ADAM AS THE "FATHER" INSTEAD.

AS A FINAL PHASE IN THIS SHORT STUDY OF MORMONISM LET US LOOK AT THEIR CONCEPT OF SALVATION AS COMPARED WITH THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF SALVATION.

## What Do Mormons Believe About God?

ACCORDING TO MORMONISM, WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO BE SAVED????  
IS JESUS CHRIST THE COMPLETE AND ONLY WAY????

LET US FIRST EXAMINE THE MORMON POSITION ON CHRIST AND SALVATION AND THEN COMPARE IT WITH THE BIBLICAL POSITION ON CHRIST AND SALVATION:

THE MORMON POSITION	THE BIBLICAL POSITION
<p>● "There is not a man or woman who violates covenants made with their God that will not be required to pay their debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out." (Brigham Young goes on to say that what Christ's blood could NOT cleanse, a man's own blood atonement could.)</p> <p><i>JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES</i>, Vol. III, page 247, and Vol. IV, pp. 219, 220</p> <p>● "Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one's salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend and at least to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal Saviour, we are thereby saved. His blood without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean ... Finally in our day, He has said plainly: 'My blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not.' ... Salvation in the kingdom of God is available because of the atoning blood of Christ. BUT it is received only on condition of faith, repentance, baptism, and endurance to the end in keeping the commandments of God."</p> <p><i>WHAT MORMONS THINK OF CHRIST</i> by B.R. McConkie (an official Mormon Publication) pp. 27, 28</p>	<p>The Lord Jesus offered one eternal sacrifice for all sins and His salvation comes not by the works of the law or any human works whatever (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:9; ...) but solely by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8; 1:7; ...). The Savior of the New Testament revelation existed eternally as God; and as a man lived a holy, harmless and undefiled life, separate from sinners, and "knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; ...). He was a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3-6), "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18, 19).</p> <p>"But now once, in the end of the ages, hath He (Christ) appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear a second time without sin unto salvation. ... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God, ... For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 9:26b, 28; 10:10, 12, 14.</p> <p>(See also Romans 3:9-28; Galatians 2:20 - 3:14; 3:26-29; 5:4; 6:14; ...)</p> <p>"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, ... That being justified by His GRACE, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5, 7</p>

WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO BE SAVED????

THE MORMON POSITION	THE BIBLICAL POSITION
<p>● Brigham Young in <i>JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES</i> Vol. XII, page 100 "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to CONTINUE to be the sons of God." (Note that he adds to John 1:12 the word "continue" which is certainly not the rendering of the Greek text) Brigham Young also said, "... instead of receiving the gospel to become the sons of God, my language would be - to receive the gospel that we may continue to be the sons of God. Are we not all sons of God when we were born into this world? Old Pharaoh, king of Egypt, was just as much a son of God as Moses and Aaron were His sons, with this difference - he rejected the word of the Lord, the true light, and they received it."</p>	<p>"They who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God, ..." Romans 9:8</p> <p>"For you are all the sons of God BY FAITH in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26</p> <p>"For the promise that he should be the heir of the world was not to Abraham, or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they who are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of no effect, ... Therefore, it is of faith, that it might be by GRACE, ..." Romans 4:13, 14, 16</p> <p>"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14</p>
<p>FROM THE POSITIONAL STATEMENTS ABOVE IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT A MORMON MUST STRIVE FOR PERFECTION (DESPITE Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 64:6; ...), SANCTIFICATION AND GODHOOD THROUGH HIS OWN EFFORTS AND BY FOLLOWING THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, L.D.S. THUS, MORMONISM IGNORES GRACE AND MAKES SALVATION A MIXTURE OF FAITH AND WORKS. TRUE CHRISTIANITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, ASKS THE INDIVIDUAL TO FACE THE FACT THAT WITHIN HIMSELF THERE IS NO GOOD THING AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT CHRIST PAID IT ALL, THE TOTAL PRICE FOR HIS REDEMPTION (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Colossians 2:9-14; ...). ONCE ANY PERSON BELIEVES AND RECEIVES CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE HE THEN HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR "GOOD WORKS" BEING DONE THROUGH HIM BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT. "GOOD WORKS" ARE THE OUT GROWTH OF SALVATION, THEY DO NOT LEAD TO SALVATION (Galatians 5:22, 23; ...).</p>	
<p>● "Mormons believe in universal salvation that all men will be saved, but each one in his own order."</p> <p><i>LOOK</i> magazine, Oct. 5, 1954 by spokesman for the Mormon Church a Mr. Evans</p>	<p>"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels; ..." And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." Matthew 25:41, 46 (See also Rev. 20:11-15)</p>

## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT GOD?