

# Two Churches

December 4, 2018

We learn from Latter-day Saint scripture that there are two churches on the Earth. The church of God and the church of the devil. There are a few places this crops up:

And it came to pass that I beheld this **great and abominable church**; and I saw the devil that he was the founder of it.<sup>1</sup>

Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that **abominable church**, whose formation thou hast seen.<sup>2</sup>

And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that **great and abominable church**, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil.<sup>3</sup>

And he said unto me: Behold there are save **two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil**; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.<sup>4</sup>

And the blood of that **great and abominable church**, which is the whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads; for they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood.<sup>5</sup>

But behold, that **great and abominable church**, the whore of all the earth, must tumble to the earth, and great must be the fall thereof.<sup>6</sup>

And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written; for behold, if it so be that they shall repent and fight not against Zion, and do not unite themselves to that **great and abominable church**, they shall be saved; for the Lord God will fulfil his covenants which he has made unto his children; and for this cause the prophet has written these things.<sup>7</sup>

Contend against no church, save it be the **church of the devil**.<sup>8</sup>

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- 1 1 Nephi 13:6
  - 2 1 Nephi 13:32
  - 3 1 Nephi 14:9
  - 4 1 Nephi 14:10
  - 5 1 Nephi 22:13
  - 6 2 Nephi 28:18
  - 7 2 Nephi 6:12
  - 8 D&C 18:20

And the **great and abominable church**, which is the whore of all the earth, shall be cast down by devouring fire, according as it is spoken by the mouth of Ezekiel the prophet, who spoke of these things, which have not come to pass but surely must, as I live, for abominations shall not reign.<sup>9</sup>

And another angel shall sound his trump, saying: **That great church, the mother of abominations**, that made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, that persecuteth the saints of God, that shed their blood—she who sitteth upon many waters, and upon the islands of the sea—behold, she is the tares of the earth; she is bound in bundles; her bands are made strong, no man can loose them; therefore, she is ready to be burned. And he shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it.<sup>10</sup>

There are references in the Topical Guide to scripture in the Bible that *could* be the great and abominable church, but they don't come out and say it directly. The Bible doesn't exactly say there are two churches, one of God and one of the devil. The Bible seems to be quiet on the subject. Why is that?

Yes, we learn from the Bible that a whore sits on the waters, (see Rev 17:1), but it doesn't exactly say that is the church of the devil. Are we simply meant to accept that as the church of the devil? If so? Why not say that explicitly?

There seems to be other confusion on the name of the church even in the Book of Mormon. Sometimes it is referred to the church of the Lamb of God<sup>11</sup>, the church of Christ<sup>12</sup>, but then sometimes it is referred to the church of God<sup>13</sup>.

Now obviously the authors were still speaking of the same church. They were speaking of the church of Jesus Christ. It is His name whom we are meant to bear. This teaching has been taught in the Bible and in the Book of Mormon on a couple of occasions.

Perhaps it was only necessary in the Bible to teach of the one church and not warn about the church of the devil? I do not know.

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9 D&C 29:21

10 D&C 88:94

11 1 Nephi 14:12

12 3 Nephi 28:23

13 Mosiah 18:17