

MORMONS AND MONOTHEISM

Introduction

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praises belong to Allah alone, may Allah exalt the rank and bestow peace upon the Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and his Companions.

Throughout America neatly dressed young men—known as Mormons—can be seen pedaling through the streets on bicycles proselytizing their faith, while their female counterparts commute in cars for the same purpose.

This sect of Christianity was founded by the American Joseph Smith between 1827 and 1830. Commonly referred to as “Mormons,” while preferring the name “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”, this group boasts 16 million members worldwide; even opening a center in the Middle East in Abu Dhabi in February of 2013.

The Latter-day Saints purportedly take their beliefs from the Bible and additional books that include the *Book of Mormon*, the *Doctrine and Covenants*, and the *Pearl of Great Price*.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints professes themselves to be a “monotheistic religion.” However, they don’t fall within the guidelines, according to the most simplistic definition of the word. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines Monotheism as: *belief in the existence of one god, or in the oneness of God. As such, it is distinguished from polytheism, the belief in the existence of many gods.*

Upon becoming familiar with their beliefs, you will find an unnerving connection between the Mormons and other deviant groups which appeared around the same time. These groups include the Ahmadiyya Cult, and subsequent groups that hijacked the creed of the Mormons and added an Afrocentric theme to it, such as the Nation of Islam and the Five Percent Nation.

Rasheed Barbee,

Durham, North Carolina — August 26, 2018

Heavenly Mother Doctrine

The Mormons believe God is the father and He has a wife known as the Heavenly Mother. Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormons, said: "*Come to me; here's the mysteries man hath not seen, here's our Father in heaven, and Mother, the Queen.*"¹

Parley P. Pratt called "the Apostle Paul of Mormonism" was an early leader of the Latter-day Saint movement and one of the first members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He said: "*Inasmuch as God was the first husband to her (Mary), it may be that He only gave her to be the wife of Joseph while in this mortal state, and that He intended after the resurrection to again take her as one of his wives to raise up immortal spirits in eternity. ...We have now clearly shown that God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity by whom He begat our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus His First Born, and another being upon the earth by whom He begat the tabernacle of Jesus.*"²

Susa Young Gates, a prominent leader in the Church, wrote in 1920: "*Joseph Smith's visions and teachings revealed the truth that 'the divine Mother, [is] side by side with the divine Father.'*"³

And in "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," issued in 1995, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles declared, "*Each [person] is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny.*"⁴

Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differed about if they should worship the "mother-god." President Gordon B. Hinckley said, "*The fact that we do not pray to our Mother in Heaven in no way belittles or denigrates her.*"⁵

While President Rudger Clawson said, "*It doesn't take from our worship of the Eternal Father, to adore our Eternal Mother, any more than it diminishes the love we bear our earthly fathers, to include our earthly mothers in our affections. ...We honor woman when we acknowledge Godhood in her eternal prototype*"⁶

¹ History of the Church (Joseph Smith)

² Parley P. Pratt (1853) *The Seer*, p. 158 and 172

³ "The Vision Beautiful," *Improvement Era* 23, no. 6 (Apr. 1920)

⁴ *The Family: A Proclamation to the World* Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, p. 129

⁵ Gordon B. Hinckley, "Daughters of God," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, p. 100

⁶ "Our Mother in Heaven," *Millennial Star* 72, September 29, 1910

Adam-God Doctrine

The Adam-God doctrine was a theological doctrine taught in mid-19th century Mormonism by the president of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young. It was accepted by later presidents John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff, as well as apostles who served under them in the leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Brigham Young said, *"When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, and the Ancient of days! About whom holy men have written and spoken – He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later."*⁷

Brigham Young also said, *"Adam was the only God that we would have, and that Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost, but of the Father Adam."*⁸

Young's bodyguard Hosea Stout wrote that night in his diary: *"President B. Young taught that Adam was the father of Jesus and the only God to us."*⁹

Brigham Young said, *"There are Lords many & Gods many. But the God that we have to account to, is the father of our Spirits – Adam."*¹⁰

⁷ Young (1852, p. 50)

⁸ Brigham Young Addresses 2:12; Samuel Hollister Rogers Journal, page 145

⁹ Diary of Hosea Stout 2:435

¹⁰ John Pulsipher Papers, Mss 1041, p. 35–37, BYU Special Collections

Plurality of Gods Doctrine

Joseph Smith said, *"The heads of the Gods appointed one God for us; and when you take [that] view of the subject, it sets one free to see all the beauty, holiness and perfection of the Gods. All I want is to get the simple, naked truth, and the whole truth."*¹¹

Joseph Smith said, *"I will preach on the plurality of Gods. I have selected this text for that express purpose. I wish to declare I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods. It has been preached by the Elders for fifteen years. I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods. If this is in accordance with the New Testament, lo and behold! We have three Gods anyhow, and they are plural: and who can contradict it!"*

Joseph Smith said, *"I say there are Gods many and Lords many, but to us only one, and we are to be in subjection to that one, and no man can limit the bounds or the eternal existence of eternal time. Hath he beheld the eternal world, and is he authorized to say that there is only one God? He makes himself a fool if he thinks or says so, and there is an end of his career or progress in knowledge. He cannot obtain all knowledge, for he has sealed up the gate to it."*¹²

¹¹ Joseph Smith's Sermon on Plurality of Gods (as printed in History of the Church, Vol. 6, p. 473-479)

¹² Joseph Smith's Sermon on Plurality of Gods (as printed in History of the Church, Vol. 6, p. 473-479)

Man Can Become God Doctrine

The Doctrine & Covenants, a book the Mormon deemed divinely inspired, states:

*19 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, ...Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; ...and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, ...and they shall pass by the angels, **and the gods**, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.*

*20 **Then shall they be gods**, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. **Then shall they be gods**, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them.*¹³

Lorenzo Snow, the fifth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said, "As man now is, God once was; As God now is, man may be."¹⁴

Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., the tenth president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said: "Mortality is the testing or proving ground for exaltation to find out who among the children of God **are worthy to become Gods themselves**, and the Lord has informed us that 'few there be that find it'."¹⁵

The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stated, "Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people may "progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny." Just as a child can develop the attributes of his or her parents over time, the divine nature that humans inherit can be developed to become like their Heavenly Father's."¹⁶

¹³ Doctrine and Covenants 132:19-20

¹⁴ Journal History of the Church, Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, 20 July 1901, p. 4.

¹⁵ Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.1, p. 69-70

¹⁶ "The Family: A Proclamation to the World"

God is Similar to His Creation Doctrine

Joseph Smith taught that God was once a man on another planet before being exalted to Godhood.¹⁷

Joseph Smith said, *"The Father has a body of flesh and bones 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. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us."*¹⁸

Likewise Joseph Smith taught that matter is external just as God is eternal. He said, *"Now, the word create does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize... God had materials to organize the world out of chaos... The pure principles of element are principles which can never be destroyed; they may be organized and reorganized, but not destroyed. They had no beginning and can have no end."*¹⁹

¹⁷ "Gospel Principles, Chapter 47: Exaltation"

¹⁸ "Doctrine and Covenants 130"

¹⁹ History of the Church 6:308-309

Islamic Monotheism

❖ The Oneness of Allah (God) in His Names and Attributes

Allah is not a man, nor a spirit, nor an angel; He does not have a father, a mother, a wife, or children. He was not born and He does not beget offspring, and there is nothing similar to Him at all. He has perfect Names and Attributes and He is free from all imperfections. Allah is above His Throne, above the creation in a manner which befits His Majesty. He sees all, hears all, knows all and controls each and every affair in the universe. Allah has no beginning and no end.

Allah says:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

Say: "He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah-us-Samad (The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need). He begets not, nor was He begotten; and there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him. (Soorah Al-Tkhlās 112: 1-4)

Allah says:

وَأَنَّهُ تَعَالَى جَدُّ رَبِّنَا مَا اتَّخَذَ صَاحِبَةً وَلَا وَلَدًا ۝

And exalted be the Majesty of our Lord, He has taken neither a wife, nor a son (or offspring or children). (Soorah Al-Jinn 72:3)

Allah says:

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ نَحْنُ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ وَأَحِبَّاؤُهُ ۚ قُلْ فَلِمَ يُعَذِّبُكُمْ بِذُنُوبِكُمْ ۚ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ بَشَرٌ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ ۚ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ ۚ وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا ۚ وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ ۝

And (both) the Jews and the Christians say: "We are the children of Allah and His loved ones." Say: "Why then does He punish you for your sins?" Nay, you are but human beings, of those He has created, He forgives whom He wills and He punishes whom He wills. And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, and to Him is the return (of all). (Soorah Al-Mā'idah 5:18)

Allah says:

لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ ۖ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١١﴾

There is nothing similar to Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.
(Soorah Ash-Shūraá 42:11)

❖ **The Oneness of Allah (God) in His Lordship**

Allah is alone in His Lordship and He has no partners in it. Allah is the Owner of everything. Allah is the Creator and He is not created. He is alone in creating, providing, controlling and arranging the affairs of the universe, giving life, causing death, and all affairs are in His Hands. All of the creation are beneath His control and will.

Allah says:

قُلْ مَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَمَّنْ يَمْلِكُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَمَنْ يُخْرِجُ الْحَيَّ مِنَ الْمَيِّتِ وَيُخْرِجُ الْمَيِّتَ مِنَ الْحَيِّ وَمَنْ يُدَبِّرُ الْأَمْرَ ۖ فَسَيَقُولُونَ اللَّهُ ۖ قُلْ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

Say, "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Or who controls hearing and sight and who brings the living out of the dead and brings the dead out of the living and who arranges [every] matter?" They will say, "Allah," so say, "Then will you not fear Him?"
(Soorah Yūnus 10:31)

❖ **The Oneness of Allah (God) in worship**

Because Allah is the only Creator, Provider, and Controller of all the affairs in the Universe, He is the only One deserving to be worshiped. Because Allah has perfect Names and Attributes and He is free from all imperfections and there is nothing similar to Him, He is the only One deserving to be worshiped. Because Allah is the only One who brings about benefit and protects from harm, He is the only One deserving to be worshipped.

Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ ۖ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَندَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ



O mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous. Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you. Then do not set up rivals unto Allah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped). (Soorah Al-Baqarah 2:21-22)

Allah says:

رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَاعْبُدْهُ وَاصْطَبِرْ لِعِبَادَتِهِ ۖ هَلْ تَعْلَمُ لَهُ سَمِيًّا ﴿٦٥﴾

Lord of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, so worship Him (Alone) and be constant and patient in His worship. Do you know of any who is similar to Him? (Soorah Maryam 19:65)

Allah says:

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شُفَعَاؤُنَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ ۖ قُلْ أُنَبِّئُوكُم بِمَا لَا

يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ۖ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَىٰ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

And they worship besides Allah things that hurt them not, nor profit them, and they say: "These are our intercessors with Allah." Say: "Do you inform Allah of that which He knows not in the heavens and on the earth?" Glorified and Exalted be He above all that which they associate as partners with Him! (Soorah Yūnus 10:18)