

The nature and kind of being that God is, is one of the foundational doctrines of the Christian Faith. Jesus Christ Himself stated that eternal life was dependent upon knowing “the only true God” (see John 17:3).

Not only this, but one of the tests given in the Bible for a “true prophet” is that prophet must not teach a doctrine concerning God contrary to what had already been revealed in the scriptures (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

In order to accurately understand what Mormons believe about God, we need to examine Mormon Scriptures as well as statements and writings of the leaders of the Mormon Church who have the authority to explain the LDS position.

The following information compares and documents a few of the major differences between “the God of Mormonism” and the God of the Bible.

GOD WAS ONCE A MAN

Mormon Scripture, the *Doctrine and Covenants*, gives us our first difference between Mormonism and Christianity when it proclaims this about God:

“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...” (Section 130:22).

One might ask, Why do they teach God the Father has a body of flesh and bones? -- when the Bible teaches “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24), and Jesus said “a spirit hath not flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39).

The answer is found in the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, who not only claimed to personally see God the Father and Jesus Christ (recorded in Mormon Scripture, the Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:17), but made these unbelievable assertions about God’s origin:

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!...for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; ...” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345, 346)

The Mormon doctrine that God has not been God from all eternity past but progressed to become God, is refuted by the Bible. Psalms 90 verse 2 declares:

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

Furthermore, the Lord God says, “I am God, and not man” (see Hosea 11:9).

MAN MAY BECOME A GOD

Not only do Mormons today believe that God was once a man, they are also taught they too can become Gods.

Joseph Smith shocked the world when he laid the foundation for current LDS teaching when he spoke these words:

“Here, then, is eternal life -- to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you,... To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 346, 347)

The Mormon teaching that God progressed to become a God as the Gods did before Him, and that men and women may also become Gods and Goddesses, is referred to as “eternal progression” and is summed up in the well known LDS phrase; “**As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be.**”

The Lord God responds: “... I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me” (Isaiah 43:10).

BILLIONS OF GODS

One of the original apostles of the LDS Church, Orson Pratt, describes the lineage of God:

“We were begotten by our Father in Heaven; the person of our Father in Heaven was begotten on a previous heavenly world by His Father; and again, He was begotten by a still more ancient Father; and so on, from generation to generation, from one heavenly world to another still more ancient, until our minds are wearied and lost in the multiplicity of generations and successive worlds,...” (*Seer*; p. 132).

From another Mormon publication Pratt again establishes how far Mormonism has departed from the monotheistic teaching of the Bible:

“If we should take a million worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.” (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 2, p. 345)

10’s of thousands of billions of Gods!

Although Mormon leaders insist there were gods before our God and there will be gods after our God, the creator and sustainer of all things, the Lord God Almighty proclaims:

“...I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me” (Isaiah 43:10).

“...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” (Isaiah 44:6)

GOD IS MARRIED

Because Mormons believe in modern revelation outside the Bible, they readily accept the LDS teaching that God has a wife in heaven.

Apostle Bruce McConkie confirmed this teaching when he wrote:

“This doctrine that there is a Mother in Heaventhat man is the ‘offspring of celestial parentage,’ and that ‘all men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity.’” (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 516).

According to Mormonism, this means that Jesus Christ, Lucifer, the demons, angels, and every person that has been born or ever will be born on planet earth was conceived by a heavenly mother and her husband, God the Father.

Unfortunately for the Mormon position, the Bible does not teach that God is married or that we were children of heavenly parents in a pre-existence.

GOD IS A POLYGAMIST

Since Mormonism considers polygamy a righteous principle and even accuses God of commanding polygamy (see *Doctrine and Covenants* Section 132), it was an easy step to further charge God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ with having many wives.

One of the original apostles of the Mormon Church, Orson Pratt, unashamedly proclaimed:

“...the great Messiah who was the founder of the Christian religion, was a polygamist,... the Messiah chose to take upon himself his seed; and by marrying many honorable wives himself, show to all future generations that he approbated the plurality of Wives...God the Father had a plurality of wives the Son followed the example of his Father, and became the great Bridegroom to whom kings’ daughters and many honorable Wives were to be married. We have also proved that both God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ inherit their wives in eternity as well in time;...” (*The Seer*, p. 172)

The Bible nowhere teaches that God is a polygamist or that polygamy is a righteous principle. Following the creation of Adam and Eve, God gave the standard: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his WIFE...” (Genesis 2:24).

3 GODS TO US?

Generally speaking, when Mormons refer to God they are speaking of God the Father. Mormons do not believe in the “trinity” but rather teach that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are 3 separate Gods. Apostle Bruce McConkie explains:

“Three separate personages -- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost -- comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a 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” (*Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576, 577)

The Bible, on the other hand, nowhere teaches three or four Gods pertaining to this world that we worship, but rather it proclaims ONE living and true God who exists in three persons. The

Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Truly, this God is the LORD in whom the scriptures say: "...the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." (Deuteronomy 4:39)

GOD -- CHARGED WITH INCEST

One of the extreme teachings of the Mormon Church which separates it from historic Christianity is its view of the part God the Father played in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Today, the Mormon Church teaches God the Father has a body of flesh and bones, and the birth of Jesus was the result of "natural action" between God the Father and Mary.

Brigham Young made it very plain that the birth of Jesus was not by the Holy Ghost:

"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." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 50)

Apostle Orson Pratt, one of the original Apostles of the LDS Church, was even more specific and makes these unbelievable assertions:

"Therefore, the Father and Mother of Jesus, according to the flesh, must have been associated together in the capacity of Husband and Wife; hence the Virgin Mary must have been, for the time being, the lawful wife of God the Father;... (*Seer*, 1853, p. 158)

The Bible, on the other hand, portrays a Holy, miraculous rather than natural view of the conception of Christ. Not only does the Bible prophesy that the mother of Jesus will be a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), but this is fulfilled in the New Testament, the conception being the result of supernatural intervention "of the Holy Ghost":

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 1:18, 20)

GOD IS LIMITED

In at least 1 respect, the God of Mormonism is quite limited. As mentioned earlier, Mormons believe that God has a "body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's." Considering the vast expanse of the universe, this God can only be personally present in a very limited area at any one time.

LDS Apostle, John Widtsoe, explains that none of the members of the godhead is omnipresent:

"As a personage, the Holy Ghost cannot any more than the Father and Son be everywhere present in person" (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, p. 76).

Contrary to Mormonism, the God of the Bible is a vastly different being who is NOT limited by a body of flesh and bones since He is Spirit (see John 4:24). This is why God can "fill heaven and earth" (Jeremiah 23:24), and yet He is so personal that He can dwell within believers (II Corinthians 6:16, Revelation 3:20).

BOOK OF MORMON CONTRADICTS MORMONISM

Strange as it may seem, current LDS doctrine has even departed from the teachings found in the *Book of Mormon*.

Joseph Smith claimed the *Book of Mormon* contained the "fulness" of the everlasting gospel (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 27:5), and "a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 194).

Yet the Book of Mormon teaches there is only "one God" (Alma 11:26-29, Ether 2:8), and that God has always been God (Moroni 8:18, Moroni 7:22).

Furthermore, it teaches the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are ONE God (2 Nephi 31:21, Mormon 7:7), and that God is a Spirit (Alma 18:26-28).

Its pages also do not contain the doctrine that men may become Gods.

To make matters even worse, the Book of Mormon nowhere says that God is married, and it consistently condemns polygamy (Jacob 2:2 & 27, Mosiah 11:2). It seems almost unbelievable that Mormons claim to have a powerful "burning in the bosom" testimony that the Book of Mormon is true, yet refuse to believe what the Book of Mormon teaches. Sad to say, most Mormons are unaware their doctrines have undergone such drastic change.

CONCLUSION

Even from this brief examination of what Mormons are taught about God, it is overwhelmingly apparent that "The God of Mormonism" is definitely not the God of the Bible.

Marvelously, the true God in His Mercy and Grace, will forgive those who turn from error and trust in Him. What a joy and peace it is to those who say as Joshua of old:

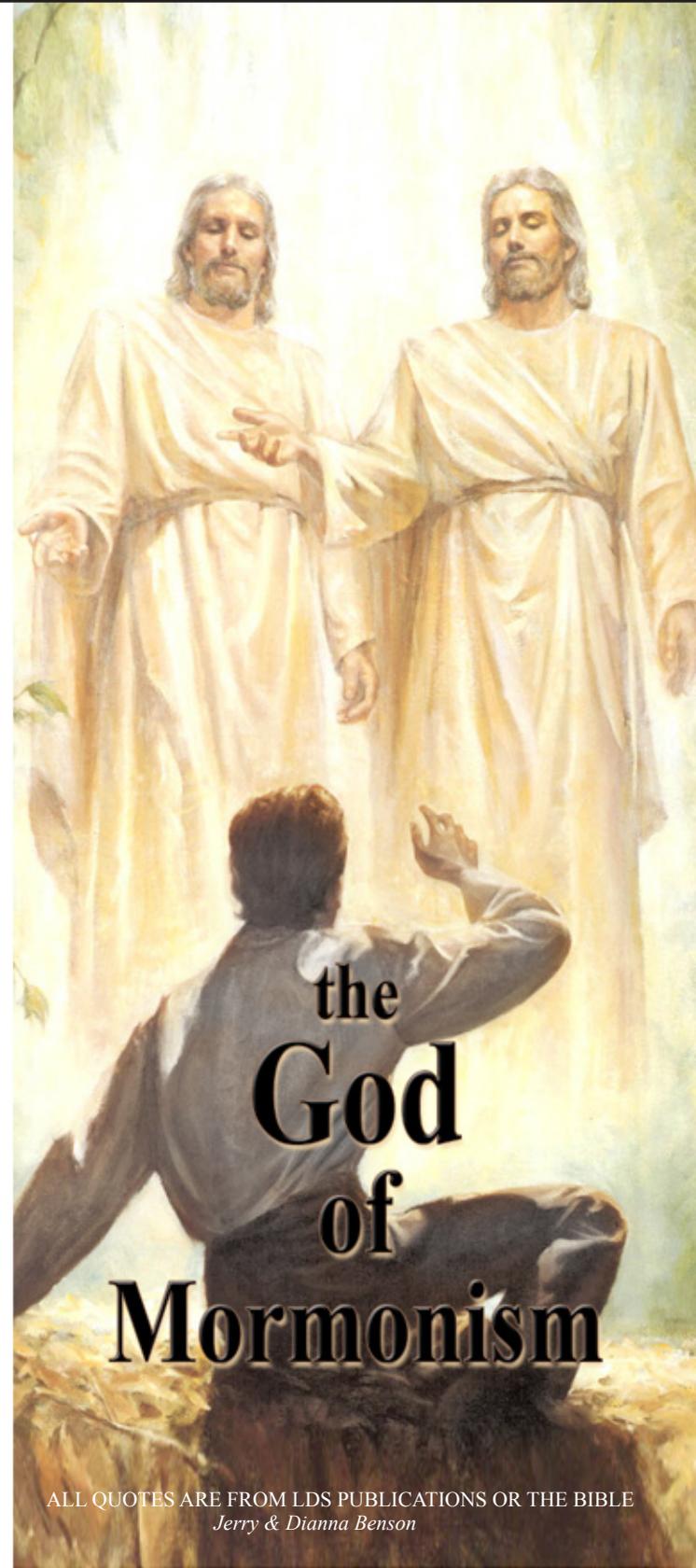
"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

If this tract has been a blessing to you or you have questions or comments, please write:

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ALL QUOTES ARE FROM LDS PUBLICATIONS OR THE BIBLE
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