

Theology Seminar: Cults and Sects

Session No. 1: Mormonism

Mormonism's History: Where Did It Come From?

1. **It's Soil:** The Denominational Confusion in New England After the Second Great Awakening (1820's).
2. **It's Roots:** The Visions of Joseph Smith (1820-1823).
3. **It's Shoots:** The Founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in New York by Joseph Smith (1830).
4. **It's Fruits:** The Founding of Salt Lake City as Mormon Headquarters by Brigham Young (1847).



Mormonism's Authority: What Do They Read?

1. **The Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ:** A record of God's dealings with the inhabitants of ancient America from 2000 BC to 400 AD.
2. **Doctrines and Covenants:** A collection of "revelations and inspired declarations given for the establishment and regulation of the Mormon Church in the last days (1830-1978 AD).
3. **The Pearl of Great Price:** A selection of revelations, translations, and writings of Joseph Smith
4. **The KJV Bible:** Understood to be the Word of God, along with the Book of Mormon, "as far as it is translated correctly." Mormon KJV Bible heavily footnoted.

Mormonism's Theology: What Do They Teach?

1. **Trinity:** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct gods amongst thousands.
2. **God:** God the Father was once a man and progressed to godhood and is now an immortal man.
3. **Christ:** The firstborn spirit-child of the Father, who progressed to deity in the spirit world and was later physically conceived in Mary's womb.
4. **Man:** Possess the same potential as God the Father to progress to godhood.
5. **Sin:** Adam's sin was a noble act making mortality possible, which is necessary to progress to godhood.
6. **Salvation:** Christ's atonement secures immortality for all, whether they repent or not.



7. **Heaven:** Most will end up in one of three kingdoms of glory, depending on faithfulness: Celestial Glory (for Mormons and Good People Unaware of Mormonism)
Terrestrial Glory (for Unworthy Mormons or Good People Who Rejected Mormonism) or
Telestial Glory (for Wicked People).
8. **Hell:** The Lake of Fire is reserved for the Devil, demons, and those who commit the unpardonable sin.
9. **The Church:** The Mormon Church is a restoration of the early church that became apostate.

Mormonism's Differences: Why Is It A Cult?

1. Denies **Who God Really Is**
2. Denies **What God Really Said**
3. Denies **Who We Really Are**
4. Denies **What We Really Need**