

ARCHAEOLOGY AND

MORMONISM

CLAIMS

- ▶ “ 7. The whole face of the land had become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea.”- Mormon 1:7
- ▶ “8. And we multiplied exceedingly, and spread upon the face of the land, and became exceedingly rich in gold, and in silver, and in precious things, and in fine workmanship of wood, in buildings, and in machinery, and also in iron and copper, and brass and steel, making all manner of tools of every kind to till the ground, and weapons of war—yea, the sharp pointed arrow, and the quiver, and the dart, and the javelin, and all preparations for war.- Jarom 8:2
- ▶ “15 And I did teach my people to build buildings, and to work in all manner of wood, and of iron, and of copper, and of brass, and of steel, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious ores, which were in great abundance.”- 2 Nephi 5:15

CLAIMS

- ▶ "17. Having all manner of fruit, and of grain, and of silks, and of fine linen, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things; 18. And also all manner of cattle, of oxen, and cows, and of sheep, and of swine, and of goats, and also many other kinds of animals which were useful for the food of man. 19. And they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants and cureloms and cumoms; all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants and cureloms and cumoms."- Ether 9:17-19
- ▶ " 8. And it came to pass that they did multiply and spread, and did go forth from the land southward to the land northward, and did spread insomuch that they began to cover the face of the whole earth, from the sea south to the sea north, from the sea west to the sea east."- Helena 3:8

CLAIMS

- ▶ “ 2. He saw that there had been slain by the sword already nearly two millions of his people, and he began to sorrow in his heart; yea, there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children.”- Ether 15:2
- ▶ “14. But behold, a hundredth part of the proceedings of this people, yea, the account of the Lamanites and of the Nephites, and their wars, and contentions, and dissensions, and their preaching, and their prophecies, and their shipping and their building of ships, and their building of temples, and of synagogues and their sanctuaries, and their righteousness, and their wickedness, and their murders, and their robbings, and their plundering, and all manner of abominations and whoredoms, cannot be contained in this work.”- Heleman 3:14

CLAIMS

- ▶ “ 13. And Alma and Amulek went forth preaching repentance to the people in their temples, and in their sanctuaries, and also in their synagogues, which were built after the manner of the Jews.”- Alma 16:13
- ▶ “18. And it came to pass that he met the Lamanites in the borders of Jershon, and his people were armed with swords, and with cimeters, and all manner of weapons of war. 19. And when the armies of the Lamanites saw that the people of Nephi, or that Moroni, had prepared his people with breastplates and with arm-shields, yea, and also shields to defend their heads, and also they were dressed with thick clothing—”- Alma 43:18-19

CLAIMS

- ▶ “ 7. And there were exceedingly sharp lightnings, such as never had been known in all the land. 8. And the city of Zarahemla did take fire. 9. And the city of Moroni did sink into the depths of the sea, and the inhabitants thereof were drowned. 10. And the earth was carried up upon the city of Moronihah, that in the place of the city there became a great mountain. 11. And there was a great and terrible destruction in the land southward.”- 3 Nephi 8:7-11
- ▶ “4. And behold, that great city Moroni have I caused to be sunk in the depths of the sea, and the inhabitants thereof to be drowned. 5. And behold, that great city Moronihah have I covered with earth, and the inhabitants thereof, to hide their iniquities and their abominations from before my face, that the blood of the prophets and the saints shall not come any more unto me against them.” 3 Nephi 9:4-5

EVIDENCE

- ▶ “The Mormons have yet to explain the fact that leading archaeological researchers not only have repudiated the claims of *The Book of Mormon* as to the existence of these civilizations, but have adduced considerable evidence to show the impossibility of the accounts given in the Mormon Bible.”
- ▶ “The following letter was addressed to the Rev. R. Odell Brown, pastor of the Hillcrest Methodist Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia, an ardent student of Mormonism and its claims. Dr. Brown, in the course of his research, wrote to the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University in New York City. The answer he received is of great importance in establishing the fact that *the Book of Mormon* is neither accurate nor truthful where the sciences of archaeology and anthropology are concerned.”

EVIDENCE

- ▶ “Dear Sir: Pardon my delay in answering you letter of January 14, 1957. The question which you ask concerning the *Book of Mormon* is one that comes up quite frequently...However.... I may say that I do not believe that there is a single thing of value concerning the prehistory of the American Indian in the *Book of Mormon* and I believe that the great majority of American archaeologists would agree with me. The book is untrue biblically, historically, and scientifically.” -(KoC pg. 214-215)

EVIDENCE

- ▶ The Smithsonian Institute added its 2 cents as well:
 - ▶ “The Smithsonian Institution has never used the *Book of Mormon* in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book”
 - ▶ “The physical type of the Native American is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northeastern Asia. Archaeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Native Americans came into the New World—probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the last Ice Age—in a continuing series of small migrations beginning from about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago.”

EVIDENCE

- ▶ “Present evidence indicates that the first people to reach this continent from the East were the Norsemen who briefly visited the northeastern part of North America around A.D. 1000 and then settled in Greenland. There is nothing to show that they reached Mexico or Central America.”
- ▶ “One of the main line of evidence supporting the scientific finding that contracts with Old World civilizations, if indeed they occurred at all, were of very little significance for the development of Native American civilizations is the fact that none of the principal Old World domesticated food plants or animals (except for dog) occurred in the New World in Pre-Columbian times. Native Americans had no wheat, barley, oats, millet, rice, cattle, pigs, chickens, horses, donkeys, or camels before 1492. (camels and horses were in the Americas, along with the bison, mammoth, and mastodon, but all these animals became extinct around 10,000B.C. at the time the early big game hunters spread across the Americas.)”

EVIDENCE

- ▶ “Iron, steel, glass, and silk were not used in the New World before 1492 (except for occasional use of unsalted meteoric iron). Native copper was used in various locations in pre-Columbian times, but true metallurgy was limited to southern Mexico and the Andean region, where its occurrence in late prehistoric times involved gold, silver, copper, and their alloys but not iron.”
- ▶ There is a possibility that the spread of cultural traits across the Pacific to Mesoamerica and the northwestern coast of South America began several hundred years before the Christian era. However, any such inter hemispheric contacts appear to have been the result of accidental voyages originating in eastern and southern Asia. It is by no means certain that such contacts occurred; certainly there were no contacts with the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews, or other people of Western Asia and the Near East.”

EVIDENCE

- ▶ “No reputable Egyptologist or other specialist on Old World archaeology and no expert on New World prehistory has discovered or confirmed any relationship between archaeological remains in Mexico and archaeological remains in Egypt.”
- ▶ Reports of findings of ancient Egyptian, Hebrew, and other Old World writings in the New World in pre-Columbian contexts have frequently appeared in newspapers, magazines, and sensational books. None of these claims has stood up to examination by reputable scholars. No inscriptions using Old World forms of writing have been shown to have occurred in any part of the Americas before 1492, except for a few Norse rune stones which have been found in Greenland. (Revised May 1980)

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO

MORMONISM

GOD

- ▶ Mormons, as we have seen, teach that the Father was once a man like us, progressed into being a god, and that He has flesh and bones like we do. Let's look at verses they may use from Scripture to hold that belief:
 - ▶ "When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses *face to face, as a man speaks to his friend*. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent." (Exodus 33:9-11)
 - ▶ "Then I will take away *my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.*" (Exodus 33:23)

GOD

- ▶ "Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and *they saw the God of Israel*. There was under *his feet* as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay *his hand* on the chief men of the people of Israel; *they beheld God*, and ate and drank." (Exodus 24:9-11)
- ▶ "In the year that King Uzziah died *I saw the Lord sitting* upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; *for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!*" (Isaiah 6:1-5)

GOD

- ▶ "*Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*" (Genesis 5:24)
- ▶ "From the standpoint of linguistics, all the references cited by the Mormons to prove "that God has a physical body that could be observed" melt away in the light of God's expressed declaration, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." (Exodus 33:20)" (KoC pg. 240)
- ▶ "Face to face" in Exodus 33:11 is rendered "intimate" in the Hebrew, and in no sense is it opposed to verse 20. Similar expressions are utilized in Deuteronomy 5:4, while in Genesis 32:30 it is the Angel of the Lord who speaks, *not Jehovah Himself.*" (KoC pg. 240)

GOD

- ▶ "The Old Testament is filled with *theophanies* (literally, God-appearances), instances where God spoke or revealed himself in angelic manifestations, and it is accepted by all Old Testament scholars almost without qualification that *anthropomorphisms* (ascribing human characteristics to God) are the logical explanation of many of the encounters of God with man." (KoC pg. 240)
- ▶ "*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*" (John 4:24)
- ▶ "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a *spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*" (Luke 24:39)
- ▶ "But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, *invisible*, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:16-17)

GOD

- ▶ "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, *whom no one has ever seen or **can see***. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen." (1 Timothy 6:13-16)
- ▶ "He is the image of the *invisible God*, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15)
- ▶ "By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured *as seeing him who is invisible*." (Hebrews 11:27)
- ▶ "*No one has ever seen God*; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." (John 1:18)

GOD

- ▶ The Bible seems to be clear that God **cannot** be seen (with the exception of the Incarnation and earthly manifestations of an Angel of the Lord).
- ▶ If God cannot be seen, according to the Bible, then Joseph Smith Jr. not only did not see God, but could not have seen God. Remember, the Bible isn't simply saying "no one has ever seen God yet..." but goes as far to say, "no one can see God."
- ▶ Joseph Smith Jr. doesn't claim to just have seen a vision or a manifestation, but claims to have seen God the Father and Jesus Christ themselves. As we see here:
- ▶ "17. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*" (Pearl of Great Price, History of Joseph Smith 1:17)

GODS?

- ▶ Mormons teach that one day, we can become “just like” Heavenly Father through progression and exaltation, and that there are many gods.
- ▶ “It will be conceded by most informed students of Christianity that one cannot deny the existence of the one true God of Scripture and at the same time lay claim to being a Christian. The New Testament writers, as well as our Lord himself, taught that there was but one God, and all church theologians from the earliest days of church history have affirmed that Christianity is monotheistic in the strictest sense of the term. Indeed it was this fact that so radically differentiated it and the parental Judaism from the pagan, polytheistic societies of Rome and Greece. The Bible is particularly adamant in its declaration that God recognizes the existence of no other “deities.” In fact, on a number of occasions the Lord summed up His uniqueness in the following revelation:” (K&C pg. 233)

GODS?

- ▶ “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, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. Thus saith 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*. Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? *yea, there is no God; I know not any*. I am the Lord, and there is none else, *there is no God beside me*: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me. *There is no God else beside me*; a just God and a Saviour; *there is none beside me*. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: *for I am God, and there is none else* (Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6, 8; 45:5, 21-22, emphasis added).” (KoC pg. 233)

GODS?

- ▶ “It must also be admitted at the outset that the Bible does designate certain individuals as “gods,” such as Satan who is described by Christ as “the prince of this world” and elsewhere in Scripture as “the god of this world.” It must be clearly understood, however, that whenever this term is assigned to individuals, to spirit personalities, and the like, metaphorical and contextual usage must be carefully analyzed so that a clear picture emerges. For instance, the Lord declared to Moses: “See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet” (Exodus 7:1). The Hebrew indicates here, when cross-referenced with Exodus 4:16 (“And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.”), that a definite relationship was involved. The context also reveals that Moses, by virtue of the power invested in him by God, became in the eyes of Pharaoh “a god.” Aaron in turn became a prophet of the “god” (Moses) that Pharaoh beheld because he was the spokesman for Moses. So metaphorical usage is obviously intended, from the very usage of the language and its contextual analysis. On this point all Old Testament scholars are agreed. But this should never cloud the issue that there is only one true and living God as the previous quotations readily attest.” (KoC pg. 234)

GODS?

- ▶ “Another instance of similar usage is the application of the term “Elohim,” the plural usage of the term often translated God in the Old Testament. In some contexts the judges of Israel are referred to as “gods,” not that they themselves possessed the intrinsic nature of Deity but that they became in the eyes of the people as gods, or more literally, “mighty ones” (Psalm 82, cf. John 10:34), representing as they did the Lord of Hosts. In the New Testament usage, the apostle Paul is quite explicit when he declares that in the world, i.e., as far as the world is concerned, “(there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, and one Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 8:5–6), a statement emphasized by our Lord when He stated, “I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore” (Revelation 1:17–18). We conclude, then, that polytheism is totally foreign to the Judeo-Christian tradition of theology. In fact, it is the antithesis of the extreme monotheism portrayed in Judaism and Christianity.” (KoC pg. 234)

GODS?

- ▶ “The psalmist reminds us of His unchangeable nature, “From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2); and Moses records in the initial act of creation that “the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). The “gods” mentioned in Scripture, then, are never gods by either identity or nature; they are “gods” by human creation or acclamation as we have seen. This, then, is a far cry from comparison with the one true and living God described by the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews as “the Father of spirits” (Hebrews 12:9; see also Galatians 4:8-9).”
- ▶ “The Mormons misuse John 10:34, “Ye are gods,” falsely implying that Jesus endorsed godhood for man. This cannot be true for several reasons. It does not fit the context of John 10:24-36, where Jesus shows his equality with the Father and deservedly is called God. In contrast, the judges (so-called gods) in Psalm 82:6 were so called because of their lofty position over the people, but God rebuked them for their sins, and they were proven to be not gods after all but fallen, sinful men.”

GODS?

- ▶ Some Mormons may quote early church father writings about us “becoming a god” such as these:
- ▶ Justin Martyr: “All men are deemed worthy of becoming gods, and of having power to become sons of the Highest.”
- ▶ Irenaeus: “We have not been made gods from the beginning, but at first merely men, then at length gods. ... (Jesus Christ) became what we are, that He might bring us to be even what He is Himself.”
- ▶ Clement of Alexandria: In the “future life” we will be among “gods ... those who have become perfect ... and become pure in heart ... They are called by the appellation of gods, being destined to sit on thrones with the other gods that have been first put in their places by the Savior.”

GODS?

- ▶ Tertullian: Through divine grace the saved “shall be even gods.”
- ▶ Origen of Alexandria: He believed in “the Father as the one true God,” but acknowledged “other beings besides the true God, who have become gods by having a share of God.”
- ▶ Jerome: “God made man for that purpose, that from men they may become gods. ... They who cease to be mere men, abandon the ways of vice, and are become perfect, are gods and sons of the Most High.”
- ▶ So what are we to say to these writings? Did the early church really claim that we can become gods just like Heavenly Father?!

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

GODS?



GODS?

- ▶ With any text, context *is* key. What did Justin Martyr actually mean?
- ▶ “But as my discourse is not intended to touch on this point [the fall of Satan], but to prove to you that the Holy Ghost reproaches men because **they were made like God, free from suffering and death**, provided that they kept His commandments, and were deemed deserving of the name of His sons, and yet they, becoming like Adam and Eve, work out death for themselves; let the interpretation of the Psalm be held just as you wish, yet thereby it is demonstrated that **all men are deemed worthy of becoming ‘gods,’ and of having power to become sons of the Highest**; and shall be each by himself judged and condemned like Adam and Eve” (Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 124, emphasis added).
- ▶ Does this seem like what the Mormons want it to mean? No.
- ▶ Quotes taken from: <http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2011/11/did-joseph-smith-restore-theosis-part-five-early-church-fathers-and-joseph-smith’s-doctrine-of-exaltation/>

GODS?

- ▶ What about Tertullian's statement?
- ▶ "Truth, however, maintains the unity of God in such a way as to insist that whatever belongs to God Himself belongs to Him alone. For so will it belong to Himself if it belong to Him alone; and therefore it will be impossible that another god should be admitted, when it is permitted to no other being to possess anything of God. Well, then, you say, we ourselves at that rate possess nothing of God. But indeed we do, and shall continue to do— only it is from Him that we receive it, and not from ourselves. For **we shall be even gods**, if we shall deserve to be among those of whom He declared, "I have said, You are gods," and, "God stands in the congregation of the gods." **But this comes of His own grace, not from any property in us, because it is He alone who can make gods**" (Tertullian, Against Hermogenes 5, emphasis added).
- ▶ Quotes taken from: <http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2011/11/did-joseph-smith-restore-theosis-part-five-early-church-fathers-and-joseph-smith's-doctrine-of-exaltation/>

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

GODS?

PRE-EARTH LIFE?

- ▶ Mormons believe that all humans existed in a "Pre-Earth Life."
- ▶ Some Mormons will point to: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)
- ▶ "So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come' ?" He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. " (John 8:21-23)

PRE-EARTH LIFE?

- ▶ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)
- ▶ Notice Jesus says "*I never knew you.*"

PRE-EARTH LIFE?

- ▶ " And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, " (John 5:37)
- ▶ Again, the word "never".
- ▶ "Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven." (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)
- ▶ Notice the contrast between Jesus and Adam. "The first man was from the earth."

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ Mormons believe that one is in the process of being saved by the atonement of Jesus Christ and making and keeping covenants with Heavenly Father.
- ▶ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised." (Romans 4:1-12)

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:20-25)

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." (Romans 5:1-6)

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace." (Romans 11:6)
- ▶ Some Mormons will immediately want to go to James 2, so let's address some possible questions there. They will often quote a passage like: "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:24)
- ▶ Going to James, as we will see, is no problem at all, however, encourage the Mormons to deal with the prior passages before getting distracted to a another passage.

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ Let's look at the passage in some context.
- ▶ Notice before the previous text given, James had this to say:
- ▶ "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:10-13)
- ▶ Looking from this passage, it is sure that James *could not have* thought that works could offer any hope in regards to one's salvation.

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:14-17)
- ▶ Notice, "can *that* faith"; the faith that James is talking about is a faith of simple adherence to a truth statement. For he goes on to compare this faith with the faith of demons!
- ▶ "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" (James 2:19)

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was **active** along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead." (James 2:21-26)
- ▶ Notice the example James uses. Ask yourselves: "Did Abraham lay Isaac on the alter before or after he was declared righteous by God?"

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ "And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:5-6)
- ▶ "After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him." (Genesis 22:1-3)
- ▶ It was obviously after, so what could James mean? It is obvious that Abraham was counted as righteous, or justified, before the work James mentioned!

GRACE + WORKS?

- ▶ John Wesley writes: "Ye see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only - St. Paul, on the other band, declares, "A man is justified by faith," and not by works, Rom 3:28. And yet there is no contradiction between the apostles: because, They do not speak of the same faith: St. Paul speaking of living faith; St. James here, of dead faith. They do not speak of the same works: St. Paul speaking of works antecedent to faith; St. James, of works subsequent to it."
- ▶ And A. T. Robertson writes: "**Is justified** (dikaioutai). Present passive indicative of dikaiōō, here not "is made righteous," but "is shown to be righteous." James is discussing the proof of faith, not the initial act of being set right with God (Paul's idea in [Rom 4:1-10](#)). **And not only by faith** (kai ouk ek pisteōs monon). This phrase clears up the meaning of James. Faith (live faith) is what we must all have ([Jas 2:18](#)), only it must shew itself also in deeds as Abraham's did."

JESUS

- ▶ Mormons think that the “Jesus” of Mormonism is the same as the Biblical Jesus.
- ▶ The Mormons “Jesus” is a created being, and thus, not God, and the spirit brother of us all, including Satan. He became a “god”.
- ▶ The Bible paints a very different picture of our Living Lord. Let’s visit a few texts in Scripture to make this point.

JESUS

- ▶ "This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, *making himself equal with God*. So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. *The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.* " (John 5:18-23)

JESUS

- ▶ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the *Word was God*. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and *without him was not any thing made that was made*." (John 1:1-3)
- ▶ "And the *Word became flesh* and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the *only Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)
- ▶ "No one has ever seen God; *the only God*, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." (John 1:18)

JESUS



HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ Mormons believe that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is accomplished by the laying on of the hands by one who has authority after water baptism.
- ▶ The Bible, however teaches differently:
- ▶ "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." (Romans 8:9)
- ▶ The Bible could not be more clear that anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit living in them is not a Christian.

HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ The Bible also teaches that one receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.
- ▶ "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit remains with us until our final redemption.
- ▶ "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MORMON

- ▶ Often, almost without exception, the Mormon will say that they *know* the Book of Mormon is true because they prayed and asked God and God told them it was true. This is described as a *feeling* normally called a “burning in the bosom”.
- ▶ How can a Christian help the Mormon to see that this is not a sufficient reason to continue being a Mormon?
- ▶ Scripture is most definitely our friend here as well as in all other cases.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MORMON

- ▶ "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)
- ▶ "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. " (Matthew 15:19)
- ▶ "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, **foolishness**. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:21-23)
- ▶ The Bible does not paint a very good picture of trusting in our hearts or feelings for anything, including, a foundation for knowing truth.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MORMON

- ▶ Also, nowhere in Scripture are we told to use this method as a way to discover if something is from God or not. This is solely out of the Book of Mormon itself! The Book of Mormon tells people to pray if it is not true, but one must believe the Book of Mormon first, before they pray, or else, they would not believe that is a good method in the first place!
- ▶ God does confirm truth in our hearts, by the Person of the Holy Spirit, through conviction, not as a one-time thing, but continually as a living presence, and not **only** through our feelings, but our minds as well. As we will see in the following video.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MORMON



ARE MORMONS CHRISTIANS?

