

Why I Am Not A... Mormon

Oops... I mean the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They don't like the name Mormon any more.

I. History

A. Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844)

1. Was caught up in the religious excitement of the Second Great Awakening
2. Claimed a vision in 1820 that Mormons say founded Mormonism
3. In 1823, claims an angel named Moroni revealed the location of a book made of golden plates. Smith began translating these with the help of "seer stones" in 1827, and the finished work became the Book of Mormon. Moroni supposedly took the plates back when the translation was complete.
4. Started the "Church of Christ" in 1830.
5. Fled west with his growing group of followers, with stops in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois.

B. Brigham Young (1801-1877)

1. After a succession crisis after Smith's death, Young eventually became the President of the Church in 1847.
2. Led the Mormons to establish themselves in modern Utah.

II. Sampler of False Doctrines

A. Jews settled America around 600 B.C., Indians are the "lost tribes of Israel", Jesus appeared to them, there was a prophet named Mormon whose son was Moroni that was later an angel that appeared to Joseph Smith...

1. See The Book of Mormon. Seriously, that's what it is about.

B. A plurality of gods

1. "And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light," (Book of Abraham 4:3).
2. Isaiah 44:6

C. God was once a man

1. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345).
2. "As man is, God once was; as God now is, man may be." - Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Lorenzo Snow
3. Isaiah 57:15

D. God has a physical body

1. "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 38).
2. John 4:24

E. You can be a god, too!

1. "THE STRAITNESS OF THE WAY. 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." (Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p.69 - p.70)

F. No Virgin Birth

1. "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
2. Isaiah 7:14

G. Forgiveness through Works

1. "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements--'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,'" (Articles of Faith, p. 79).
2. Ephesians 2:8-9

H. Bible is not complete

1. "...it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of men, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 10)
2. II Timothy 3:16

I. Jesus and Satan were spirit brothers, or something

1. "Who will redeem the earth, who will go forth and make the sacrifice for the earth and all things it contains?" The Eldest Son said: "Here am I"; and then he added, "Send me." But the second one, which was "Lucifer, Son of the Morning," said, "Lord, here am I, send me, I will redeem every son and daughter of Adam and Eve that lives on the earth, or that ever goes on the earth." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 53-54)
2. John 3:16

J. Racial Issues

1. "As a result of his rebellion, Cain was cursed with a dark skin; he became the father of the Negroes, and those spirits who are not worthy to receive the priesthood are born through his lineage," (Mormon Doctrine, 1958, p. 102).
2. John Taylor: "... after the flood we are told that the curse that had been pronounced upon Cain was continued through Ham's wife, as he had married a wife of that seed. And why did it pass through the flood? Because it was necessary that the devil should have a representation upon the earth as well as God . . . ," (Journal of Discourses, vol. 22, p. 304).
3. Matthew 28:19

K. Baptism for the dead

1. "Because all who have lived on the earth have not had the opportunity to be baptized by proper authority during life on earth, baptisms may be performed by proxy, meaning a living person may be baptized in behalf of a deceased person." - mormon.org