



"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone
who asks you for a reason for your hope"
1 Peter 3:15

When Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses Come Knocking

The Origins of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- Founded by Charles Taze Russell in 1874
- In 1881 founded the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- 1909 Moved headquarters to Brooklyn, New York
- 1916 Charles Taze Russell dies
- 1917 – 1934 “Judge” Joseph F. Rutherford is 2nd Watchtower President
- 1931 The name “Jehovah’s Witnesses” adopted

The Origins of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1942-1977: third Watchtower President Nathan H. Knorr
- 1978-1992: 4th Watchtower President Frederick W. Franz
- 1992-2000: 5th Watchtower President Milton G. Henschel
- 2000: Major change in Organizational Structure – Created a Board of Directors under Don A. Adams
- Statistics of the Jehovah's Witnesses

Basis of JW's Theology

- Adopted Adventist Theology
- Christ's Invisible Presence occurred in 1874 but later changed to 1914
- Investigative Judgement – Christ's inspection of Spiritual Food from 1874-1878 but later changed to 1914-1919.
- Conditional Mortality, Soul Sleep. The soul does not survive death, Resurrection only for the worthy (certain JW's), No Hell
- Restoration of Paradise Earth

False Prophecies of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1874 – Date for Christ's "invisible presence" changed to 1914
- 1914 – End of the world
- 1915 – Replaced 1914 for the end of the world
- 1918 – End of the world, destruction of churches
- 1925 – End of the world with the return of Abraham, Issac & Jacob
- 1929 – "Beth Sarim" House of Princes built in San Diego for the "soon" return of king David and prophets.
- 1940's – End of the World would come with the "soon" battle of Armageddon
- 1975 – 6,000-years of human history, the end of the world would come within "months, not years"
- 1994 – 80-year Generation of 1914 should bring the end of the world. 1995 redefined the word "generation" to be symbolic of general readiness for the end.

False Prophecies of the Jehovah's Witnesses

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| 1889 | "The 'battle of the great day of God almighty' (Rev 16:14) which will end in AD 1914 . . ." (Studies, Vol. 2, 1908 edition, 101). |
| 1891 | "With the end of AD 1914, what God calls Babylon, and what men call Christendom, will have passed away, as already shown from prophecy" (Studies, Vol. 3, 153). |
| 1894 | "The end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble" (WT Reprints, 1-1-1894, 1605 and 1677). |
| 1897 | "Our Lord is now present, since October 1874 AD" (Studies, Vol. 4, 1897 edition, 621). |
| 1916 | "The six great 1000 year days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great 7th day, the 1000 years of Christ's reign began in 1873" (Studies, Vol. 2, p. 2 of foreword). |
| 1917 | "Scriptures . . . prove that the Lord's Second Advent occurred in the fall of 1874" (Studies, Vol. 7, 68). |
| 1918 | "Therefore, we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old" (Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 89). |
| 1922 | "The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the scriptures than 1914" (WT, 9-1-1922, 262). |
| 1923 | "1925 is definitely settled by the scriptures. As to Noah, the Christian now has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had upon which to base his faith in a coming deluge" (WT, 4-1-1923, 106). |
| 1925 | "The year of 1925 is here. . . . Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year" (WT, 1-1-1925, 3). |
| 1931 | "There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the dates 1914, 1918, & 1925 . . . and they also learned to quit fixing dates" (Vindication, 388, 389). |
| 1939 | "The disaster of Armageddon is just ahead" (Salvation, 361). |
| 1941 | "Armageddon is surely near . . . soon . . . within a few years" (Children, 10). |
| 1946 | "Armageddon . . . should come sometime before 1972" (They Have Found a Faith, 44). |
| 1966 | "Six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E" (Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God, 29). |
| 1968 | "The end of the six thousand years of man's history in the fall of 1975 is not tentative, but is accepted as a certain date" (WT, 1-1-1968, 271). |

Distinctive Beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- Jesus Christ is not God
- Christ is a Created Being
- The Holy Spirit is a Force not God
- “Jehovah” is God’s Name
- Only 144,000 Will Enter Heaven
- Hell Does Not Exist
- Humans Do Not Possess Immortal Souls
- The Watch Tower Society is the Sole Rule of Faith
- No Blood Transfusions
- No Clergy
- The New World Translation of the Bible Only
- Jesus and Michael the Archangel the Same Person

Controversial Practices of the Jehovah's Witnesses

- No Holiday or Birthday celebrations
- No participation in flag salute, voting, politics or war activities
- No blood transfusions
- Limited higher education
- Limited contact with non-Jehovah's Witnesses friends and family
- Shunning former Jehovah's Witnesses, especially family
- Forbidding literature critical of the group
- Mandatory door-to-door proselytizing

When Dealing with JW's

1. Don't slam the door in their faces
2. Don't argue or debate specific doctrines with the Witnesses
3. Don't let the Witnesses get through a rehearsed presentation
4. Don't allow the Witnesses to bring up multiple issues and get you sidetracked
5. Do not go by the Witnesses' version of the Bible, the *New World Translation*

The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

A little history . . .

The roots of Mormonism go back to 1820, when a young man named **Joseph Smith** was praying in the woods and claimed that God spoke to him. He said that God forgave his sins and told him that ALL contemporary churches had "turned aside from the gospel." This is what he would later refer to as "**The Great Apostasy**".

In 1823, he declared that he was visited by an angel named "**Moroni**" who told him the location of some "**golden plates**" buried in a secret place., along with a breastplate and two magic "**seer stones**" which were to be used for interpretation and finding lost items and treasures. When he reportedly located the golden plates, he alleged that they were a religious record of native Americans in a language called "**Reformed Egyptian**" that only HE could interpret. He would put the magic stones in a stovepipe hat and press his face into the opening of the hat and dictate his "interpretations" to his personal scribe.

After several years, Smith and his scribe finished writing the **Book of Mormon** in 1830 – after which, he claimed that the Angel Moroni took the golden plates back to Heaven. Shortly after, they baptized each other – then, Smith and his followers formed a church in New York State called “**The Church of Christ.**” When some of his followers began alleging that they were also receiving “revelations” – he declared himself “**Prophet and Apostle**” and that **ONLY** he could declare doctrine and scripture for the church.

Later, they moved to Ohio, where he added “**Latter Day Saints**” to their title, so they became “**The Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints**”. Throughout the 1830’s, they wandered around a few states, establishing communes in Missouri, Ohio and Illinois, experiencing varying degrees of trouble in those locations due to their bizarre doctrines, inner turmoil, power struggles and local pressure.

In the early 1840s, Smith began to preach his new doctrines of polygamy and Baptism of the Dead. His belief in polygamy caused problems, not only within his group – but caused a resentment of Mormonism from non-Mormons. Smith himself was married or “sealed” to at least **33** women. After being arrested for inciting a riot and treason, he was shot to death by a lynch mob on **June 27, 1844.**

The Mormons eventually settled in **Salt Lake City, Utah** under the leadership of Smith’s successor, **Brigham Young.**

Some Core Beliefs of the LDS (Mormons)

Polytheism

Mormons are essentially **polytheistic**. That is to say, that they believe in a **plurality** of gods – whereas, Christianity is **monotheistic**. We believe in only **ONE** God.

Mormon “Trinity” = Three gods

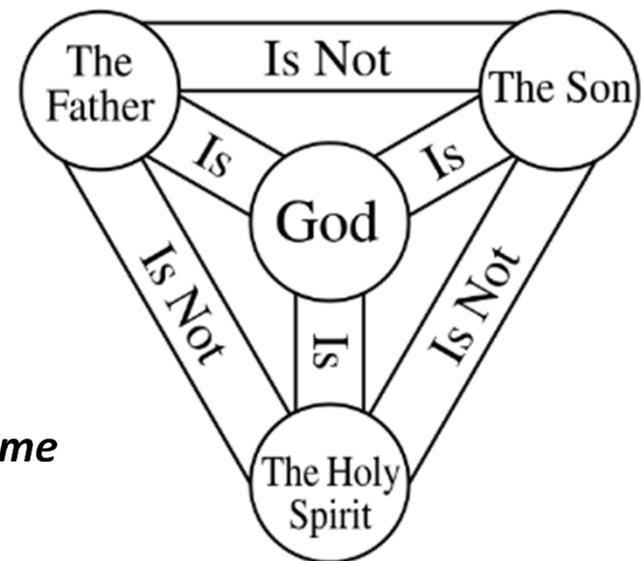
Mormons baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – but it is **NOT** a true Trinitarian Baptism because they don’t believe in a Trinitarian Godhead. They see the as 3 “**partner gods**”.

Christians believe in God as a Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, this should never be confused with polytheism because in the Trinity, there is **ONE** God manifested as **three** distinct Persons. The Blessed Trinity can be summed up as:

1 - WHAT (God)

3 - WHO’s (Persons)

Christians Baptize, as Christ commanded – “***in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***” (Matt. 28:19).



Mormon "Trinity" (*continued*)

Joseph Smith declared: "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 distinct gods" (**Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 370**).

In fact, Mormonism teaches that God the Father is essentially a "**perfected man**" and is limited by a body of flesh and bone. This means that he is limited to time and space like we are. He lives on a planet near an uncharted star called "**Kolob**" (**Abraham 3:3-9, Joseph Smith**).

Since Mormons worship *both* God the Father (**Doctrine and Covenants 18:40**) and Jesus **Christ (3 Nephi 11:17; 2 Nephi 25:29)**, and since they believe the Father and Jesus are two *separate gods*, they truly are polytheists.

Because spirits (gods) cannot experience a "fullness of joy" without being joined to corporeal (physical) bodies, God created worlds across the universe so that the spirits could be embodied within corporeal beings. Through the acquiring of knowledge in Mormonism, one could actually become like God. They will be part of a hierarchy of gods in the afterlife.

Jesus and Satan are Spirit Brothers

Mormons believe that Jesus and Satan are truly brothers. One chose good and the other, evil.

Jesus was the firstborn and Satan was his kid brother gone bad.

- Christianity teaches that Jesus is **God** – that He **ALWAYS** was and will **ALWAYS** be (**John 1:1**). We teach that Satan was an Angel who rebelled against God.
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The Church

Christ established a Church in Palestine in the 1st century, which eventually failed in the “**Great Apostasy**”.

He appeared to the ancient Native Americans and tried to establish His Church with them – and it **also** eventually flopped.

It wasn't until Joseph Smith appeared on the scene in the 19th century that the Church was “reawakened”.

- Catholics believe in the **promises** of Christ when he said that the gates of Hell would **not** prevail against His Church (**Matt. 16:18**). Since Christ and His Church are **inseparable** (**Acts 9:4-5, Col. 1:18, Eph. 1:22-23**) – it **cannot** fail.

Polygamy

Contrary to what some believe – Mormons no longer practice plural marriage. In the late 1800's the U.S. government began to outlaw all forms of polygamy. Then, in 1890, LDS president Wilford Woodruff claimed that he received a “divine revelation” that the LDS were no longer to engage in plural marriages. There are still some offshoots of Mormonism that practice polygamy.

Whereas, a man may marry in the Temple after his wife dies – a Mormon wife may only marry once in the temple – even if her husband dies.

- Christianity teaches that God made marriage between **ONE** man and **ONE** woman – and the two become **ONE** flesh (**Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:5, Mark 10:8, Eph. 5:31**).

Baptism for the Dead

Mormons teach that dead persons can receive the benefits of Baptism.

- Catholics believe that Baptism is for the living. It is a rebirth that regenerates the soul and forgives sins (**John 3:5, Acts 2:38**). We know from Scripture that once a person dies – they are held **accountable** for their sins (**Heb. 9:27**).

Plural Heavens

Not everybody goes to the same heaven. Even the wicked and those who don't believe will achieve a low level of glory after death. Only Satan, his spirit followers and a tiny handful of **REALLY** bad people end up in Hell or eternal damnation. The rest of creation winds up in one of *three* separate "Heavens"

Murderers, adulterers, liars, thieves, fornicators and other sinners will occupy the lowest level of heaven. They will spend eternity with the Holy Ghost.

The Middle Heaven is populated with good non-Mormons and those Mormons who weren't quite good enough to make it to the higher level. They will spend eternity in the presence of Jesus.

The Top Heaven is reserved for devout Mormons – those who became gods and rulers of their own universes. They will procreate billions of spirits which will be placed into physical bodies in their universes. These newly-created beings will become Mormons who will then perpetuate the cycle started on earth.

- Catholics believe in the Triune Godhead – and that **ALL 3** Persons of the Trinity are eternally present in Heaven and that the faithful will never be separated from God (**1 Thess. 4:17, Rev. 21:23, Rev. 22:5**). We also believe in the warnings in Scripture that some will indeed go to hell and that neither **murderers**, nor **adulterers**, nor **fornicators**, nor the **sexually immoral**, not **thieves**, or **liars** will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven (**1 Cor. 6:10, Rev. 21:8 and Rev. 22:15**)

The Priesthood

During Joseph Smith's lifetime, the LDS church claims that ***“a few black male members of the Church were ordained to the priesthood.”*** According to their own literature – ***“Early in its history, Church leaders stopped conferring the priesthood on black males of African descent.”***

It wasn't until **June 1, 1978** that their President, **Spencer W. Kimball** claimed he received a revelation from God allowing this practice to begin again and lifted all restrictions regarding race.

It only takes is **ONE** false prophecy or **ONE** false teaching to be a **false prophet** and a **false teacher**. We are *warned* in Scripture by our Lord Jesus that false prophets and teachers will come to God's people dressed in sheep's clothing but will be like ravenous wolves.

Matt. 7:15-20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves.

By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit.

Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

So by their fruits you will know them.

As Catholics – we have been given the FULLNESS of the Gospel. We should be so knowledgeable about our faith that we can spot a counterfeit coming a mile away.

Those who lead others astray will have to account for that before God (**Matt. 18:6, Mark 9:42, 1 Cor. 11:13**) – but those who were *led* astray will **ALSO** have to give an account (**Matt. 25:29, Rom. 14:12, 1 Cor. 3:12-15, 1 Pet. 4:5**).