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Why waste time learning about LDS history and doctrine?

To protect ourselves against false doctrines

To dig deeper into our own faith

To minister more effectively to our LDS friends

Joseph Smith's First Vision

- 1. 1820 – 14 years old
- 2. Wanted to join the one true church
- 3. Went into the forest to pray
- 4. God the Son and God the Father appear to him
- 5. Jesus said not to join any church
- 6. The fullness of the gospel will be revealed to him



Joseph Smith's First Vision

James 1:5 – Analysis

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

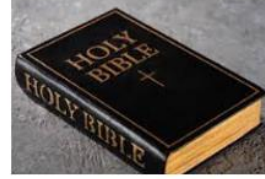
Didn't Joseph Smith do the right thing?

Knowledge = knowing something; receiving an answer or some kind of information

Wisdom = Proper application of knowledge



Biblical Response



*Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words shall not pass away.**"*

Something only needs to be restored if it previously passed away.

*Jude 1:3 "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for **the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints.**"*

Something that was delivered once and for all will not be delivered a second time/restored.



Biblical Response



*Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and **the gates of Hell will not overpower it.**"*

Joseph Smith claimed that the gates of hell did overpower the church.



Trust Our Feelings?



Moroni 10:4-5 “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, **he will manifest the truth of it unto you**, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And **by the power of the Holy Ghost** ye may know the truth of all things.”

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Trust Our Feelings?

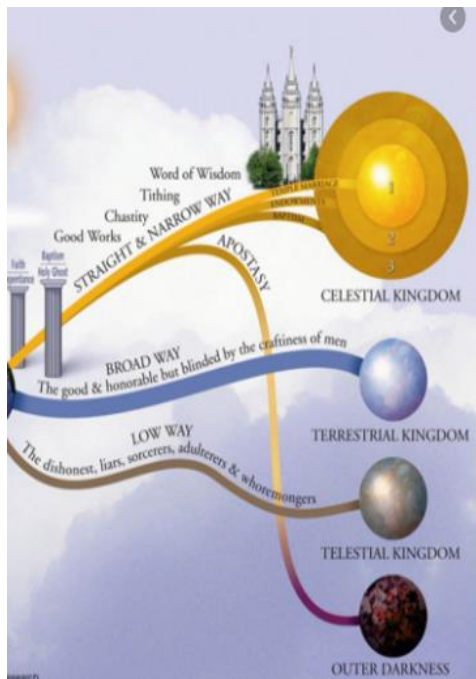
Jeremiah 17:9 “**The heart is deceitful** above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

Proverbs 28:26 “Whoever trusts in his own heart is a fool.”



Plan of Salvation

- Pre-existence
- Jesus is the firstborn spirit baby
- Jesus volunteers to be the savior of our world
- Almost everyone goes to heaven thanks to Jesus



Plan of Salvation



- Heaven divided into 3 kingdoms:
 - Telestial
 - Terrestrial
 - Celestial
- Become Gods (Celestial only)
- Create and rule your own universe



Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

- Psalm 90:2 “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

LDS Biblical Support

We can become Gods

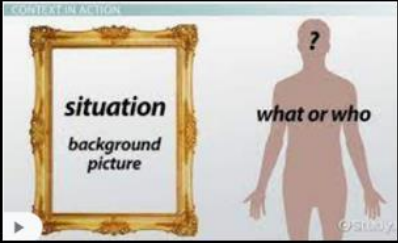

John 10:34 “Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are **“gods,”**”

Psalm 82:6 “I said, ‘You are **“gods”**; you are all sons of the Most High.”

1 Corinthians 8:5b “there are many **“gods”** and many “lords.”

“There is more than 1 God, but Jesus is the 1 God that we worship.”



Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

We can become Gods

John 10:34 “Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said **you are “gods,”**”

Psalm 82:6 “I said, ‘**You are “gods”**’; you are all sons of the Most High.”

Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

- ¹ God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:
- ² **“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?”**
- ³ Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- ⁵ **“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;**
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
- ⁷ But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”
- ⁸ Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

We can become Gods

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods,""

Psalm 82:6 "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High."



**What is the context of Psalm 82?
God is judging wicked earthly kings.**

1 Corinthians 8:5b "there are **many "gods" and many "lords."**

1 Corinthians 8:4 "So then, about eating food sacrificed to **idols**: We know that "An **idol** is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is **no God but one.**"

Paul is referring to false idols as gods and lords.

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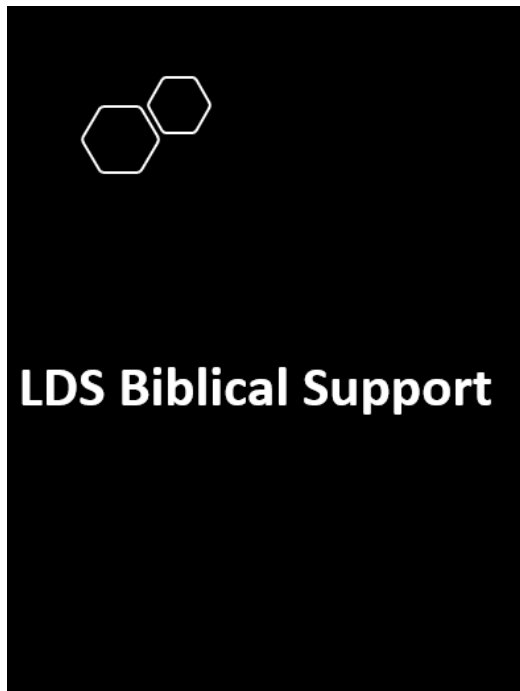
LDS Biblical Support

Jesus is a created being

*Colossians 1:15 "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** over all creation."*

Jesus is the firstborn offspring of Heavenly Father.





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Jesus Christ, Firstborn



Jesus Christ, Firstborn

See also [Jesus Christ, Divine Sonship](#)

I will make him my *firstborn*, Ps. 89:27.

I the Lord, the *first*. Isa. 41:4.



Sound Biblical Hermeneutics



*Psalm 89:27 "And I will appoint him to be my **firstborn**, the most exalted of the kings of the earth."*

- Who is this talking about?

*Psalm 89:20 "I have found **David** my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him."*

- Why is David referred to as God's firstborn?

Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

*Psalm 89:27 "And I will appoint him to be my **firstborn**, the most exalted of the kings of the earth."*

- Firstborn = preeminent / supreme / highest in rank

Same context is applied to Jesus in Colossians 1:15.

*"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation.**"*



MY GOD, MY GOD
WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

LDS Biblical Support

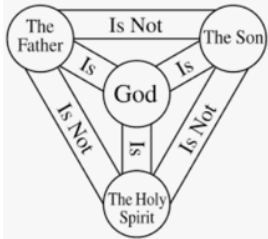
John 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Jesus calls the Father: God

Jesus has a God???

Sound Biblical Hermeneutics

*Hebrews 1:8 "But about the **Son** he says, "Your throne, **O God**, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."*

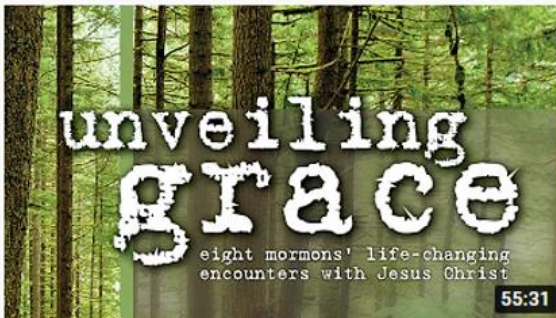


1. Jesus calls heavenly father: God
2. Heavenly father calls Jesus: God
3. There always has been and always will be 1 God

Jesus and God the Father (and the Holy Spirit) are 1 God

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Pt 1 - Homework Assignment



Unveiling Grace: The Film (Full Presentation)

213K views • 11 years ago



Sacred Groves

Eight former Latter-day Saints share about their life-changing encounters

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if **his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness**. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

Reaching the Lost

What is your job?

1. Love For God
2. Love For The Unbeliever
3. Love For The Truth

1 Corinthians 13:1

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have LOVE, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

What is
our job?

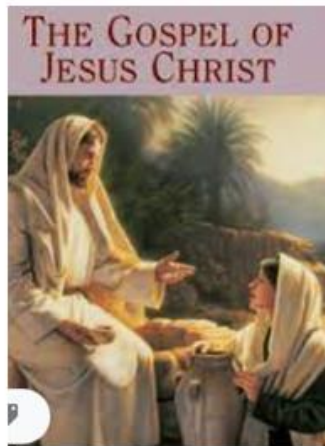
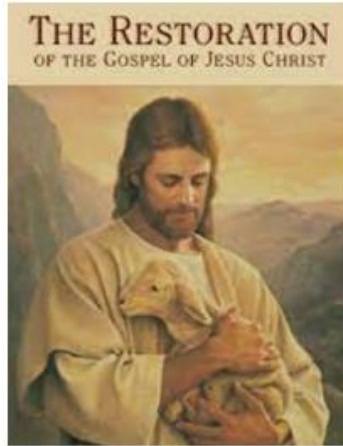
1. Love Them

2. Listen to them

3. Lead them

Love Them





LISTEN TO THEM

Lead Them



Differences In Terminology

	LDS	Biblical
Salvation	Resurrection	Saved from our sins
Eternal Life	Celestial Kingdom	Living with God forever in heaven
Grace	Enabling Force	Undeserved Gift
Atonement	Restoration through perfection	Restoration through faith
Repent	Completely Stop Sinning	Turn toward God & away from sin

LDS Gospel

Moroni 10:32 "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and **if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness**, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, **then is his grace sufficient for you**, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ;"

2 Nephi 25:23 "for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, **after all we can do.**"

1 Nephi 3:7 "For I know that the Lord **giveth no commandments unto the children of men**, save he shall prepare a way for them **that they may accomplish the thing** which he commandeth them."

LDS Gospel

D&C 58:43 "By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins— behold, he will confess them and **forsake them.**"

LDS Church Website Jesus paid for our sins, but they are not removed from us unless we repent. When Alma was describing how he recognized and repented of his sins, he said:

D&C 82:7 "And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but **unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return**, saith the Lord your God."

LDS Gospel

"As long I am doing my striving to do my best, that's all I can do."

Spencer Kimball - Book: Miracle of Forgiveness; Chapter Title: Trying Is Not Sufficient - "When one "merely tries" to abandon sin, then they haven't completely repented. Trying is OK for children, but adults must DO. **To 'try' is weak. To 'do the best I can' is not strong.**"

"The forsaking of sin **must be a permanent one**. True repentance does not permit making the same mistake again."

One God

Isaiah 43:10 “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.**”

Isaiah 44:8 “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.**”

Different Christs

Islam - Jesus is just a prophet

Jehovah's Witness - Jesus is an angel

Mormonism - Jesus is an exalted man & one of many Gods

Christianity - Jesus always has been and always will be God

2 Corinthians 2:11 “For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, *this* you tolerate very well!”

John 1:1-3 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**”**

Colossians 1:16-18 **“For by him were **all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,** whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And **he is before all things,** and by him all things consist.”**

John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”