

# The Gospel

*The Cults & The Occult*

# The Cults

## What is a cult?

A cult, is any religious group which differs significantly in one or more respects or practices from the teachings of God's word. A cult is also defined as a group of people gathered about a specific person or person's mis-interpretation of God's word.

# The Cults

## Examples of Cults

- The Jehovah's Witnesses, for the most part, gather around the teachings and interpretations of Charles T. Russell & J.F. Rutherford.
- The Christian Scientist gathers around the teachings and interpretations of Mary Baker Eddy.
- The Mormons gather around the teachings and interpretations of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

# The Cults

## Definitions

- The word “cult” comes from the Latin word “cultus”: meaning to worship; To reverence, and show respectful treatment of the gods. (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)
- The word “fanatic” comes from the Latin word “fanaticus” meaning inspired by a deity: causing one to be enthusiastic, and frenzied. (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)

# The Cults

## Mormonism

- Joseph Smith Jr. Born in 1805. The 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Joseph and Lucy Smith.
- Joseph Smith's father was a mystic, a hunter for treasures, and was in constant trouble with the law for counterfeiting.
- As a young boy, Joseph Smith Jr. would use a “peek stone” which he said would turn colors to detect hidden treasures.

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## Mormonism

- Joseph was told by supernatural visitors (Moroni: an angel or resurrected personage) that all of the Christian denominations were corrupt and he should not join any of them.
- The angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith three times in the same night with the following information: prophecies.

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## Mormonism

- Joseph's name would be known all over the world, with good and bad connotations.
- Joseph was given information regarding golden plates that recorded the history of the native Americans and the gospel brought to them by Jesus Christ himself.

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## Mormonism

- He was told about the Urim and the Thummin. (They were like a pair of glasses made of stone by, and only by, which the golden plates could be translated: by looking through those glasses.)
- He was not allowed to retrieve the plates and glasses for four years by command of Moroni.
- He was also told that he must visit the spot where the plates were hidden once every year. Finally allowed to collect the pieces on Sept. 22, 1827.



# The Cults

## Mormonism

- In 1829, Smith and his translation helper, Oliver Cowdery, were anointed into the priesthood of Aaron by John the Baptist.
- They both began to prophesy, and they were told that now they could interpret the scriptures correctly.
- Shortly after their entrance into the Aaronic Priesthood, Peter, James and John appeared and anointed Smith and Cowdery into the Melchizedek Priesthood, which was a higher office of priesthood.

# The Cults

## Mormonism

- Joseph Smith and his brother Hiram were arrested by state militia upon the command of the Governor of Illinois.
- Smith and his brother Hiram, joined by a group of his followers, burned down the printing presses of an anti-Mormon group that continued to print anti-Mormon materials.
- The Smith brothers were arrested and jailed in Carthage, Ill.

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## Mormonism

- They were both killed by an angry mob who stormed the jail.
- Someone had slipped Joseph a gun and as the mob stormed the jail, Joseph shot at his attackers. Joseph and his brother were both killed that day, June 27, 1844.
- But Joseph was hailed by his followers as a “martyr.”

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## Mormonism

- The Christian church stands or falls on its founder, JESUS Christ...the Mormon church stands or falls on its founder, Joseph Smith.
- Joseph's Testimony: Joseph gives four different versions of his testimony:

# The Cults

## Mormonism

1. It was in the woods. It was in the early morning, in early spring of 1820. He saw a pillar of light, he saw 2 personages standing above him in the air. The one personage said pointing to the other, “This is my beloved son; hear him.” The personage told Joseph none of the denominations of the church were right; they were all corrupt. He FORBADE me to join any of them. (Times & Seasons, vol. 3, pp. 728, 748)

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## Mormonism

**2. A pillar of light shone upon me in my 16<sup>th</sup> year: brighter than the noonday sun: the light rested on me and I was filled with the spirit of God and the Lord opened the heavens and I saw the Lord. He spoke to me and said: my son thy sins are forgiven thee, go and walk in my statutes and keep my commandments. (Brigham Young University Studies: 1969, p. 281)**

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## Mormonism

**3.** I was 14 years old when I received this first communication. A pillar of fire appeared above my head: it rested upon me and I was filled with joy unspeakable, a personage appeared in a pillar of flame: another personage soon appeared like the first: he told me my sins were forgiven and that Jesus Christ is the son of God. I also saw many angels in this vision. (Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Spring 1971, p. 87)

# The Cults

## Mormonism

**4.** On the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> of Sept. 1823 [Joseph would have been 18 years old] before going to bed he began to pray; suddenly the room was as bright as day: and a personage appeared before me. He declared himself a messenger sent by commandment of the Lord to deliver a special message to me and tell me that my sins were forgiven. (Messenger & Advocate, vol. 1, 1834, pp. 78-79)



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## Mormonism's Writings

- **The Book of Mormon**: The translated golden plates that Joseph Smith received from Moroni, completed in the Spring of 1830.
- **Doctrines & Covenants**: The collection of revelations given to Joseph Smith, published while the group was still in Kirtland, Ohio.
- **The Pearl of Great Price**: The Book of Moses: Joseph's reworking of the first six chapters of Genesis. Also containing The Book of Abraham: where we learn about the star Kolob, the pre-existence of all souls, the purpose the earth was created, Joseph's translation of the Gospel of Matthew, and the Mormon Articles of Faith.

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines

- 2 Cor. 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him

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## Prophecies & Doctrines

- Any Latter Day Saint, who denounces or opposes, whether actively or otherwise, any plan or doctrine advocated by the “prophets, seers, and revelators of the Mormon Church: is cultivating the spirit of apostasy...Lucifer...wins a great victory when he can get members of the Church to speak against their leaders and to “do their own thinking” (emphasis added: The Ward Teacher’s message for June 1945.)

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## Prophecies & Doctrines: Do what you are told.

- When our leaders speak, the Thinking has been done. When they propose a plan – it is God's plan. When they point the way there is no other which is safe. When they give direction, it should mark the end of controversy. (Improvement Era, June 1945. p. 354)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Do what you are told.

- ...learn to do what you are told...if you are told by your leader to do a thing, do it, none of your business whether it is right or wrong. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol.6, p. 32)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Salvation.

...No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 289)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Salvation.

- Every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are...I cannot go there without his consent...He reigns there as a supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in Heaven. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol 7, p. 289)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Salvation.

- ...I am an Apostle of Joseph Smith...all who reject my testimony will go to hell, so sure as there is one, no matter whether it be hot or cold... (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 212)



# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Salvation.

- I will now give my scripture – Whosoever confesseth that Joseph Smith was sent of God...that spirit is of God; and every spirit that does not confess that God has sent Joseph Smith, and revealed the everlasting Gospel to and through him is of Anti-Christ. (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 8, p. 176)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Blood Atonement.

- It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, yet men can commit sins which it [the blood of Jesus] can never remit. As it was in ancient days, so it is in our day. There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering upon an altar, and there are sins that the blood of a lamb, or calf, or turtle doves, cannot remit, but they must be atoned for by the blood of that man...(Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol 7, p. 53p54)

# The Cults

## Prophecies & Doctrines: Blood Atonement.

- There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it....(Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol 7, p. 20)

# The Cults

To be a true Christian you must believe...

- God is an exalted Man.
- Jesus and Lucifer are spirit-brothers.
- Jesus was begotten through a sexual relationship between God the Father and Mary.
- Secret temple rituals are **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** in order to obtain eternal life.

# The Cults

To be a True Christian you must believe ...

- The Bible, God's Word, is missing many "plain and precious parts."
- The Garden of Eden was in Missouri
- The Book of Mormon is "the most correct book on earth"