

**Sermon Title: Mormonism Galatians 1.1-12 - July 18 2010**  
**Series Countering the Cults**

How many people drove by the new temple just opened in Langley, British Columbia?

The building is made out of Brazilian stone - it must have cost millions of dollars. The nearest such temple is in Cardston Alberta. It is a Mecca for Mormons.

The Mormons advance by three methods: **Missions, Money and Magnificence.**

This impresses people who walk by sight and not by faith.

**I read one account of a chef who wanted to prove that its how the food is served that matters.** Using dog food he served *Hors D'oeuvres*

(finger food) up on a silver platter with bacon bits, olives etc.

The people loved it and wanted to come back for more. False religions operate like that. The grander, the more impressive the better and it fools people into swallowing their poisonous message.

**Roman Catholicism learned this many years ago.** To reach superstitious people, build grand Cathedrals with gold and ornate architecture. The **Charismatic Mega churches** do likewise. They impress people with size and numbers. People in the business world say, – success breeds success.

The founder of Mormonism was Joseph Smith who was born on Dec. 23, 1803. His family moved to Palmyra, Pennsylvania when he was eleven years old. When he was 14 years old his family considered joining a new church. He went into a nearby woods to pray - a messenger spoke to him and said not to join any church as all churches were apostate.

He claimed that when he was 20 years old a special angel called Moroni visited him and told him about golden plates, and two special stones and where they were located. That night the vision was repeated two more times.

The next day he stated that he found the plates as told by Moroni. Moroni visited him again and told him to come back every year for four years.

Finally, at the age of 24 he was given the plates and told to keep them safely until the angel called for them.

He took the plates to the home of his father in law and began translating them. He used the two stones – as Urim and Thummim.

In this work of translation he was joined by Oliver Cawdrey (this was the year 1829). Cawdray wrote down in English what Joseph Smith translated as he used the two stones.

Also, in 1829 these men claimed that they were met by John the Baptist who anointed them to the Aaronic ministry, and later that year they were visited by the apostles Peter, James and John who conferred on them the Melchisedek Priesthood. (These two orders are still held by Mormons today).

Joseph Smith had three witnesses to his book of Mormon. Their names are in every book of Mormon. Then he had eight witnesses to verify the book of Mormon – these names are also recorded at the beginning of every book of Mormon.

### **THE BIG YEAR - 1830**

On Mar 26, 1830 the first copy of the Book of Mormon was first put out for sale in Palmyra bookstore and on Apr 6th 1830, the Church of Latter Day Saints was organised at Fayette, New York

### **MISSION TO NATIVES**

As the book of Mormon was greatly about the history of native Americans, Joseph Smith and his followers moved to Ohio and later to Independence Missouri.

The first Morrmons were not accepted by early settlers and they moved again and in 1839 Joseph Smith chose a site on the Mississippi River as their new home. They called it Nauvoo - (supposedly Hebrew for “beautiful place”. ) Here Smith organised a small standing army and began building a Mormon temple.

However, a local newspaper published material which was anti Mormon and Smith had his small army destroy the press and burn every copy of the paper.

**Jospeh Smith was arrested and places in Jail.** On June 1844 a mob attacked the jail and killed Joseph Smith and Hrum his brother. Hi murder was turned to help the cause of Mormonism as Joseph Smith was considered a martyr and was given hero status.

**Brigham Young became the second president in 1847** and let the Mormons all the way west to Utah, settling in Salt Lake City.

At first there were 400 wagons who made the trip - 30 years later when Brigham Young died there were 140,000 Mormons in Utah. Many immigrated from Great Britain and Scandinavia through a “revolving fund” set up by Brigham Young to finance immigrants to their city.

Today, there are nine million Mormon missionaries in the world. Half of whom are in the United States.

They were planning to have 100,000 missionaries propagating their message around the world. Have you seen them?

### **THE MESSAGE OF MORMONISM**

**GOD** They reject the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity. They teach that God the Father has a physical body, and the Holy Spirit is a personage of Spirit. Joseph Smith stated: “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man.”

**CHRIST IS A MERE MAN.** (c/f Cults and the Occult pg 42)

Brigham Young stated: “Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. Christ’s birth was the result of a physical union between God the Father and Mary.” Leading LDS authorities have taught that Jesus was a polygamist. They teach that Christ’s death guarantees that all will be resurrected and that individual salvation is gained by the person in the degree to which he believes and obeys the Mormon gospel. The doctrine of blood atonement teaches that “there are some serious sins for which the cleansing blood of Christ does not operate, and the law of God is that men must have their own blood shed to atone for their sins.”

**(Cults and the Occult pg 43 - 47 by Sandra Tanner of Utah Ministries:)**

Let us examine the Book of Mormon. The elevation of this book above the Bible is unacceptable to every Bible believer.

**Is the Book of Mormon inspired?** Let us apply the same tests to the Book of Mormon as we do to the Bible for its divine inspiration:

See table on Inspiration of Bible and BOOK of MORMON.

**Conclusion:**

Galatians 1:9 still stands. **“But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”**

We cannot accept the gospel of the Mormons. It has no foundation in truth. It leads us away from the gospel of the Bible.

**Mormons need the real gospel.** It is our work to take them the message of life in Christ the Son of God. We must live it. We must reach out to Mormons with the love of Christ.

**There are hurting Mormons who want to be set free. Their religion does not satisfy their troubled hearts.** We must demonstrate that Christ satisfies our souls. Christianity is a living relationship with the Son of God.

**Their religion gives them no assurance** therefore we must speak of our sure hope in Christ.

Compared to the gospel of the Christian Bible, it as if the Mormons are living on dog food, but they don’t know it.

Because of their priestly ceremonies in beautiful temples they think they have the real thing.

### **Weird things about Mormonism**

Baptisms for the dead - a distinctive doctrine of the Mormon church. This is the reason for their renowned archives on genealogy.

Not in the book of Mormon

Joseph Smith received this revelation on Jan 19, 1841 after the book of Mormon was translated .D & C section pg 124

Communion with water - another revelation given to Joseph Smith when going to purchase wine from non Mormons

**Celestial marriage** - If by the word of the Lord, and sealed in temple his marriage shall be of full force when the parties are out of this world; they shall receive glory, "which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the sees forever and ever. They shall be gods, because they have no end...." D & SC Sect 132 19 -20.

This means that there are two kinds of marriage - marriage for time and marriage for eternity.

One takes place in a temple the other is not.

**Plural marriage** - Polygamy

**Marriage in heaven**

**Men become as gods.**

**Sealed parents will have spiritual children in heaven and this will enhance heaven.**

Salvation by marriage is therefore promoted by the Mormon teachers. It is another gospel that is contrary to the gospel of Christ. They deny the deity of Christ and thereby undo the power of His supernatural life, death and resurrection.