

The Mormon Plan of Salvation—Mission Impossible

1 Thessalonians 5:21

I do not doubt the sincerity of a Mormon missionary. But it does not matter how sincere he is if he believes something that is contrary to the Bible. Nadab and Ahihu were sincere when they offered strange fire upon the altar of the tabernacle. Uzzah was sincere when he reached forth his hand to steady the ark. But God killed them on the spot for not following the plan God ordained.

➡ 4 key questions that should be answered when discerning any religion:

1. **What is its final authority** (Mk. 11:28)? For a Bible believer, it is the KJB. For the Mormon is it a burning in the belly.
2. **Who is Jesus Christ** (Mt. 22:42; Mk. 8:27)? For the Bible believer, He is God, the third person of the triune Godhead. To the Mormon he is an exalted man who attained godhood.
3. **How is a person saved?** For the Bible believer, it is by grace through faith in believing the Gospel. It is important to understand the **Mormon church does not offer SALVATION from sin**. Instead, they teach a complex progression of EXALTATION to become a god through human effort, keeping rules, and doing good works (D&C 1:31-32)..
4. **What are the consequences of rejecting that particular religious view** (1 Pet. 4:17)? For the Bible believer it is eternity in hell/the lake of fire. For the Mormon there is no literal burning hell and all will go to some level of heaven (except “the sons of perdition” and followers of Satan).

The Mormon publication, “*What of the Mormons*” by Mormon “prophet/apostle” and former President of the LDS church, Gordon B. Hinckley, says:

“Life is purposeful. It is progressive. It leads to Godhood... Heaven lies in the growth that comes of *improvement and achievement*. It is the place where will be those who have *achieved* this goal by *obedience* to the commandments of God.”

The Book of Mormon says, “For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, AFTER ALL WE CAN DO” (2 Nephi 25:23).

In the Mormon Articles of Faith, written by Joseph Smith, we read:

“We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, BY OBEDIENCE TO THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of Hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost.”

NOT the “gospel” Paul preached (1 Cor. 15:1-4), but it is “*another gospel*” (Gal. 1:6-9).

- Baptism is not part of the gospel message (1 Cor. 1:17). Baptism is not “for the remission of sins” in the Church Age. We practice baptism because our sins have already been remitted.
- Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost is not the Gospel and not essential for salvation. The Gentiles at Cornelius’ house received the gift of the Holy Ghost without laying on of hands (Acts 10:44).

What does the Bible say about salvation:

1. Salvation is by grace through faith apart from works (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5-6; Acts 16:31—*Believe ON the Lord Jesus Christ—Not believe ON YOURSELF.*).
 - Ask the Mormon: “Do you know the exact number of Jews saved by keeping the law and commandments?” Answer: ZERO (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16; James 2:10).
2. Salvation is by believing the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
3. Salvation is to be saved from God’s wrath and eternal separation from God in the lake of fire.

➡ **Mormonism’s strange view of sin and the Fall of Adam.**

Mormonism teaches all men begin as spirit children conceived by the Father (Elohim) and his celestial wives. Michael was Elohim’s third-born

spirit child. Elohim gave Michael a physical body, and he entered the world as Adam. God gave Adam a wife named Eve. They were immortal.

God gave them **two commandments**. The **first** was to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. They were to begin a line of mortal bodies into which the spirit children being produced by Elohim and his wives, could enter. If they successfully completed their earthly existence, and seal at least one wife to themselves for eternity, they would become gods. They would then create worlds and populate them with their own spirit children. **This is the goal of every Mormon.**

The **second** commandment was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Eve ate, she became mortal. **Adam was faced with a dilemma.** He w -0.2 (l)() -0.4 (s) How could he obey God to 0.2 (l)

1. If water baptism cannot save those who are alive, how can it save the dead.
 2. The Bible does not teach the possibility of a person having a “second-chance” to be saved after death (Ps. 49:7-8; Luke 16:19-31).
- B. Mormons use 1 Corinthians 15:29 to prove their doctrine. The context of the verse is the resurrection. Paul is proving the fact of a resurrection. Paul is reasoning, since baptism is a picture of the resurrection, why practice baptism if the dead won't be raised up?
- C. Proxy baptisms require keeping endless genealogies. Mormons consider this a “Temple work” (1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9).
- How many baptisms for the dead have been performed by Mormons? This practice been going on for 175 years Only the Mormon Church knows for sure how many proxy baptisms have been performed. It is estimated over 100 million.¹

➡What are the CONSEQUENCES OF REJECTING THE MORMON

“GOSPEL.” Mormonism teaches, “In the life to come we shall not be arbitrarily divided into two fixed groups — inhabitants of heaven and hell... There is nothing of ... a hell of hot flame in Latter-day Saint philosophy.”

- The rich man of Luke 16:19-31 would testify otherwise.
 - A. In Mormonism, there are **three levels of heavenly kingdoms** (see chart):
 1. Celestial— For Mormons only
 2. Terrestrial— For honorable non-Mormons
 3. Telestial— A kind of catch all for all that do not fit into the upper two levels. “Telestial” is a word coined by Joseph Smith.
 4. The Mormon “proof-text” for these three kingdoms is 1 Corinthians 15:40-41. However, the context is not dealing with levels of heaven. Paul is illustrating how our resurrection body is different from our earthly body (vs. 38-39).

¹ <https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080907133043AAAd2JDr>

- a. Celestial = Our heavenly body in the resurrection
- b. Terrestrial = Our earthly body during this life.

NOTE: The Bible's teaching of the three different "heavens" (Gen. 1:1-8 cf. 2:1; Ps. 148:1-4)

- 1st heaven = Earth's atmosphere (Jer. 15:3; Mt. 24:30)
- 2nd heaven = Outer space (Gen. 1:14-15)
- 3rd heaven = God's throne room (Neh. 9:6; Mt. 6:9; 2 Cor. 12:2)

B. Mormons believe in at least **two types of salvation.**

1. General salvation. This is salvation from death through a general resurrection. They reason, since all will be resurrected from the dead, all will be saved and go to either the terrestrial kingdom or the telestial kingdom. Only the incorrigible "sons of perdition" will suffer the second death.
 - This is not found anywhere in the Word of God (cf. John 5:29; Rev. 20:11-15).
2. Conditional or individual salvation This is where Mormons will be given a place in the celestial kingdom according to their obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel (D&C 20:29; 2 Nephi 9:23-24).

