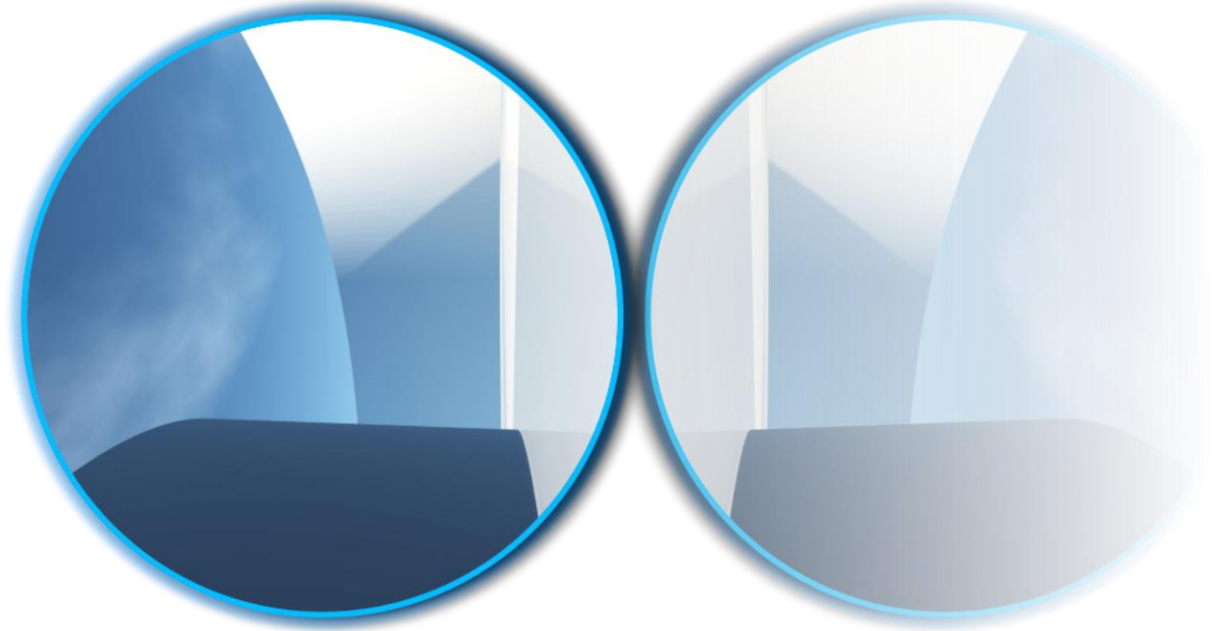


# Worldview & Worshipers

## Section 3: Christian Sects

SECTION 3: CHRISTIAN SECTS



## Lesson 10: Mormonism

The Bible Church of Little Rock  
EH FALL 2025

# Introduction: Course Definitions of Key Terms

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## Worldview:

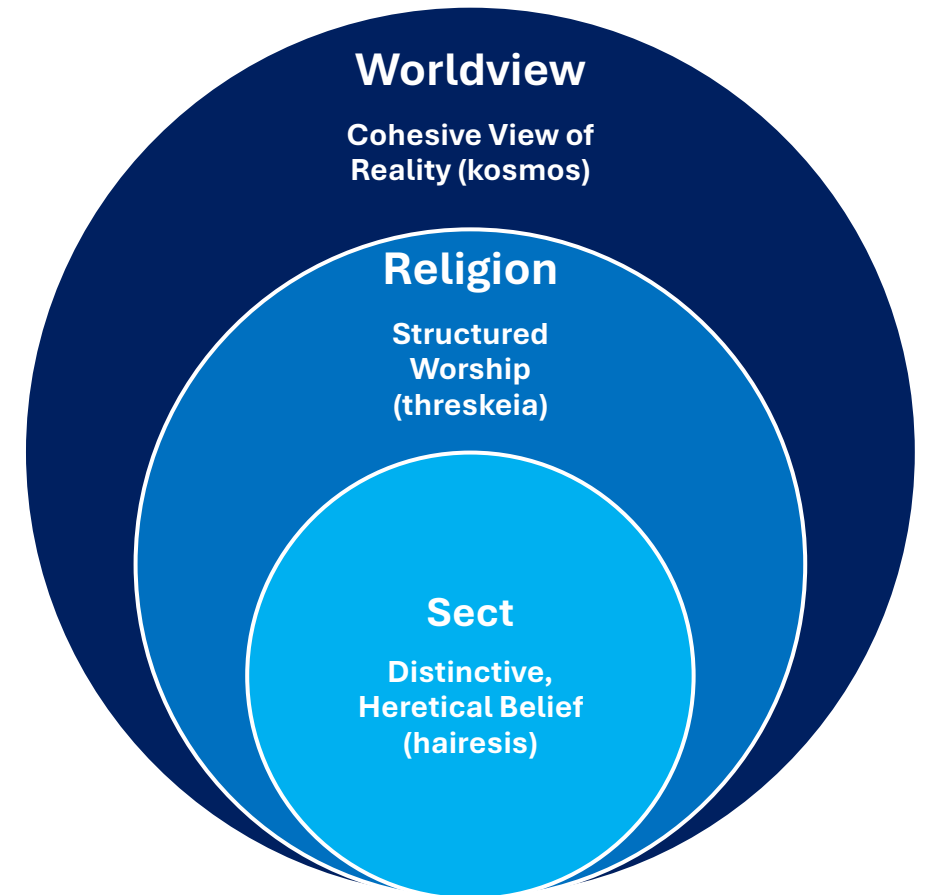
- A Cohesive and Complete Framework of Beliefs that Explains Existence (Creation).

## Religion:

- A Structured System of Beliefs that Includes Organized Worship.

## Sect:

- A Subset of a Religion with Similar but Distinctive Beliefs which are in error.





# Guiding Question, Big Idea, and Course Goals

# Overview: Big Idea & Guiding Question

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## Guiding Question:

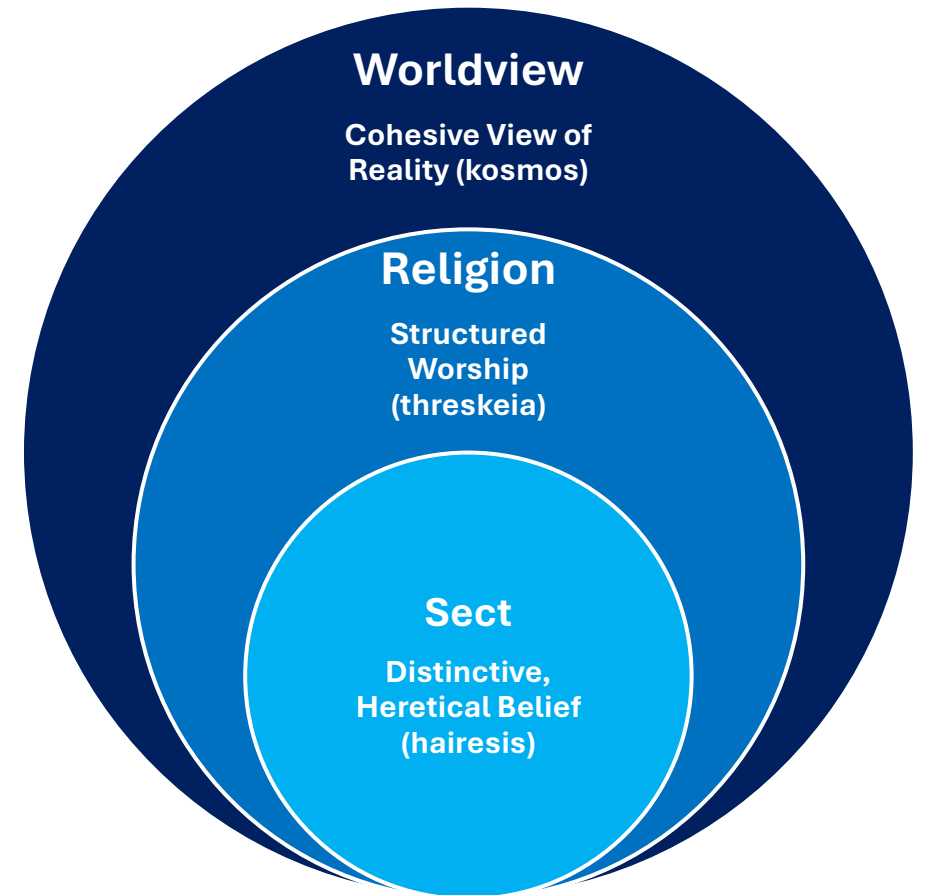
- What do the various worldviews in existence today believe? How does the Christian discern what these worldviews worship?

## Big Idea:

- Christians should seek to understand the heart state of other worshippers so they may show the truth of Christ to them and love them rightly.

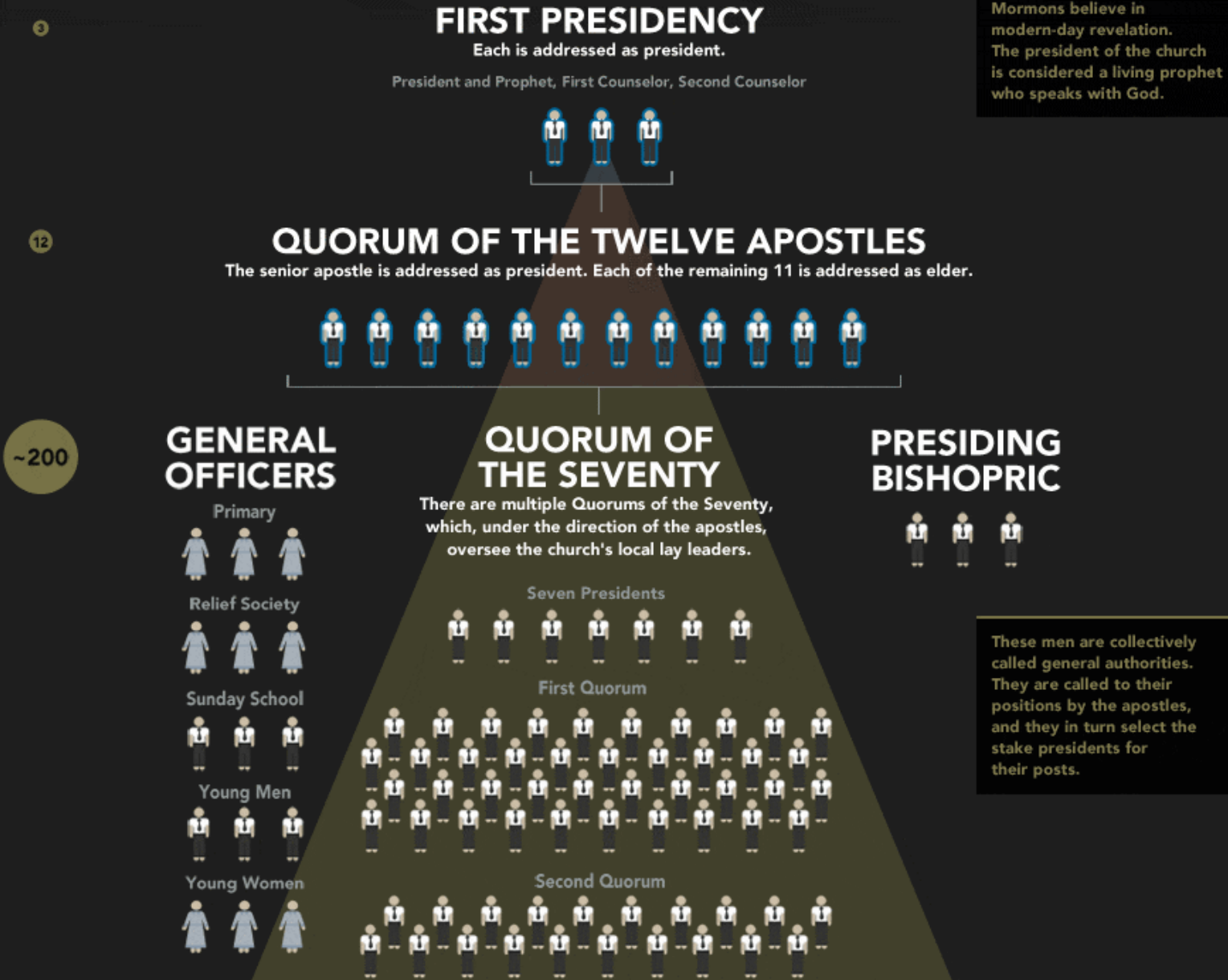
## Primary Scripture:

- John 4:21-26,  
“The Father is Seeking True Worshippers”



# Overview: Mormon Leadership

## THE MORMON HIERARCHY



# Overview: Mormon Leadership

Leadership Body	Description
<b>First Presidency</b>	Composed of the President of the Church and two counselors. It is the highest governing body. The President of the Church is the highest office, currently held by Dallin H. Oaks since October 14, 2025. <b>Considered a prophet, seer, and revelator.</b> Appointed by the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.
<b>Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (one quorum)</b>	Consists of twelve <b><i>apostles who oversee the church and serve as special witnesses of Jesus Christ</i></b> . The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles holds significant authority and is equal in power to the First Presidency.
<b>Quorums of the Seventies (many quorums)</b>	Assist the Twelve Apostles and are organized into quorums, with responsibilities in various regions.
Local Leadership	Description
<b>Bishop</b>	Leader of a local congregation ( <i>ward</i> ). Responsible for spiritual and administrative needs.
<b>Stake President</b>	Oversees multiple wards within a geographic area ( <i>stake</i> ).



# Overview: Mormons in the World Today

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## Current Mormon Population Statistics

- As of 2024, the global membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (often referred to as the Mormon Church) is approximately 17,509,781. Within this number, a significant portion of members resides in the United States.

## Mormon Population in the United States

- The ***United States makes up about 39% of the total global membership***. The estimated number of U.S. Mormons stands at around 6,868,793. This population is primarily concentrated in states like Utah, California, and Idaho, where there are substantial communities and congregations.

## Notable Trends

- Recent reports indicate a slight increase in membership growth rates, particularly in regions outside of the U.S., such as Africa and South America, while growth rates within the U.S. have stabilized (about 1 – 1.5% annually).





# Mormon Doctrine: Key Terms

Term	Mormon Definition
<b>Christianity</b>	Sectarianism; a false and damnable apostate religion
<b>God</b>	“Elohim”; one of innumerable self-progressing bodily deities; formerly a man, a finite creature; now the principal deity of the earth. In early Mormon theology, Adam (of the garden of Eden) was considered the true earth deity by many Mormons
<b>Jesus Christ</b>	A self-progressing deity (“Jehovah” of the Old Testament) and the first spirit child of “Elohim” and his wife
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	A deified man with a spiritual body of matter
<b>Trinity</b>	A tritheistic (three god) grouping of deities, coordinated under general Mormon polytheism; thus, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are separate deities
<b>The Gospel</b>	Mormon salvation by works, leading to exaltation or godhood
<b>Born Again</b>	Having undergone water baptism into Mormonism
<b>Immortality</b>	Salvation by grace (the universal resurrection of all men)
<b>Atonement</b>	The provision God has supplied for people to earn their own salvation “by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel” ( <i>Articles of Faith</i> , 3)



# Mormon Doctrine: Key Terms (cont.)

Term	Mormon Definition
<b>The Fall</b>	A spiritual step upward; a blessing permitting the production of physical bodies for pre-existent spirits to inhabit and thus have the possibility of attaining their own “exaltation” or godhood
<b>True Salvation / Eternal Life / Redemption</b>	Exaltation to godhood in the highest part of the celestial kingdom based upon individual good works and personal merit in this life and during pre-existence; exaltation incorporates ruling a new world and sexual procreation in order to produce spirit children who will eventually be embodied and inhabit that world, each then having the opportunity to be exalted, or deified
<b>Death</b>	In general, a step upward; death represents the possibility of a form of salvation (if not exaltation) for those who have never heard of Mormonism
<b>Heaven</b>	Three “kingdoms of glory” comprising various spiritual gradations
<b>Hell</b>	Generally purgatorial; possibly eternal for a very few (primarily apostate Mormons)
<b>Virgin Birth</b>	The birth of Christ through a physical sex act between God the Father (the Mormon earth god “Elohim” and Mary (hence, <i>not</i> a virgin birth)



# Mormon Doctrine: Key Terms (cont.)

Term	Mormon Definition
<b>Man</b>	A pre-existent spirit with the potential to earn godhood by obedience to Mormon dictates
<b>Creation</b>	The reorganization of eternal matter
<b>The Scriptures</b>	The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, The Pearl of Great Price, and the Bible “as far as it is translated correctly” (Articles of Faith, 8)
<b>The Bible</b>	An erring and often unreliable inspired record, properly interpreted only by Mormons and only in light of Mormon theology



# Mormon Doctrine: Jospeh Smith

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Joseph Smith is generally understood as the founder of Mormonism.

- Joseph Smith founded Mormonism in the early 19th century after claiming to receive divine revelations beginning in 1820 (the First Vision).
  - In this vision, God and Jesus Christ appeared to him, instructing him not to join any existing religious denominations as they were all corrupt.
- In 1823, (the Second Vision) he said an angel named Moroni directed him to golden plates, which he translated into the Book of Mormon, published in 1830. This text laid the foundational beliefs and history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church).
- Facing persecution, Smith and his followers migrated westward, eventually settling in Nauvoo, Illinois, where he continued to establish religious practices and church governance.
- Smith was murdered (not martyred) in 1844 while in jail by a mob of some 200 people (for directing the destruction of a local newspaper who had written criticizing content about him), but his teachings and the church he founded continued to grow, significantly influencing American religious history.





# Mormon Doctrine: King Follet Discourse

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A key sermon that much of Mormon key teaching comes from is a message Joseph Smith delivered at the death of a man named King Follet (he was not a king, that was simply his given name). This is where a core teaching of Mormonism originated: *"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."*

Foundational takeaways include:

- **God's Nature and Progression:** The King Follet Discourse emphasizes that God is not an unchanging being but a person who has progressed to His divine status, suggesting that humans can also evolve toward godhood.
- **Human Potential:** It teaches that all human beings have the potential to become like God, affirming the doctrine of eternal progression and the importance of gaining knowledge and virtue.
- **Creation and Authority:** Smith discusses the creation of the world, asserting that God organized existing matter rather than creating it *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), which reflects a distinctive view of creation compared to traditional Christian beliefs.
- **Preexistence of Souls:** Smith affirms the idea that souls existed before their earthly lives, which influences teachings about purpose and agency in life.
- **Revelation and Knowledge:** The discourse underscores the importance of continuous revelation and personal revelation to individuals, asserting that individuals should seek their own understanding through divine guidance.

# Mormon Doctrine: Who God Is

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At the very core of our brief overview of Mormonism must be their belief and teaching on who God is. By any stretch, Mormons are *polytheistic* (they believe in more than one god) but perhaps more accurately they are *henotheistic*; that is, they believe in one supreme or specially venerated god who is not the only god.

- Mormons believe that the Gods of this world (Earth) exist as 3 individual gods: Elohim (the Father); Jehovah (the Son); and the Holy Ghost (the Spirit). Both Elohim and Jehovah have physical bodies. Both Elohim and Jehovah were once mere men who had to achieve salvation and godhood through earning it by evolving.
- Elohim is the Father of all his spirit children here on earth – consisting of Jesus, Lucifer (the devil), and all humanity. That being the case, mankind and god are all of the same species
- What sets Jesus apart is that Elohim had physical relations with Mary (Mary was brought into his presence by being caught up to him by the Holy Ghost).
- Elohim is just one of infinite gods on infinite worlds
- “*As God is, man may become*” – concept of eternal progression





# Mormon Doctrine: Jesus

Even though many Mormons prefer the name “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints”, their view of Jesus is not nearly as high as they would have you believe.

The Mormon Jesus Christ	The Biblical Jesus Christ
<b>A created being; even the spirit-brother of Lucifer</b>	<b>Uncreated God</b>
<b>Earned his own salvation (exaltation)</b>	<b>As God, Christ required no salvation</b>
<b>Common (one of many gods) and of minor importance in the larger Mormon cosmology</b>	<b>Unique (the second Person of the one Godhead) and of supreme importance throughout eternity and all creation</b>
<b>Conceived by the physical sex act of the Father (Elohim) and Mary</b>	<b>Conceived by the Holy Spirit, who overshadowed Mary, a true virgin</b>



# Mormon Doctrine: LDS “Scriptures”

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Mormon scriptures are often referred to as the Standard Works, which include:

- **The Book of Mormon:** Claims to be a historical record of a tribe of Jewish people known as “Nephites” concerning their migration to North America in ancient times. Translated from the gold plates presented to Smith by the angel Moroni, via use of a “seer stone” in a hat which Joseph Smith peered into and dictated the translation to a scribe.
- However, even though the history of the Nephites is supposed to be from ~ 600 BC to 420 AD, it details specific social, political, and religious concerns unique to 19<sup>th</sup> century America. Contains plagiarism from works published in the 1800s as well as over 27,000 words taken directly from the KJV bible (which was not published until the 1600s – which would have been 1,200 to 2,000 years *after* the Nephites).
- No people, places, artifacts, scriptures, inscriptions, gold plates, etc. mentioned in the Book of Mormon have ever been found/discovered.
- From the original 1830 edition to modern-day versions, many significant changes and over 3,000 minor changes have been made.





# Mormon Doctrine: LDS “Scriptures” (cont.)

Mormon scriptures are often referred to as the Standard Works, which include:

- **Doctrine and Covenants (D&C):** A collection of revelations given primarily to Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of Mormonism – claims to be genuine scriptures inspired by God.
  - Originally called the “Book of Commandments”, published in 1833. Between this original publishing to the now D&C, over 65,000 changes have been made.
- **The Pearl of Great Price (PGP):** A collection of a number of smaller works of differing style and content originally published in 1851.
  - Essentially amounts to a rewrite of the opening chapters of the book of Genesis; presents the concept of “plurality of gods”.
  - Contains the “Book of Abraham”, stated to have been translated from the papyrus written in “reformed Egyptian” by Joseph Smith (historically, no such language as “reformed Egyptian” is known to exist)
  - The “Book of Abraham” is actually a copy of a pagan text, the Egyptian “Book of Breathings”, an extension of the occult Egyptian “Book of the Dead” telling of the journeys of the soul after death.
  - Thousands of words have been deleted and hundreds of words added



# Mormon Doctrine: LDS “Scriptures” (cont.)

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Mormon scriptures are often referred to as the Standard Works, which include:

- **King James Version (KJV) of the Bible:** But with the Mormon caveat “*as far as it is translated correctly*”, by which they mean it has been greatly corrupted over time and as a result, is unreliable, incomplete, and therefore new revelations to God’s Word are allowed and external (Mormon) theological suppositions are utilized in interpretation. Mormons believe that through the numerous “translations”, corruption was introduced – whether from faulty translators or purposefully. Some hold to the view of translation over time something similar to this:
- *Hebrew → Greek → Latin → French → German → Spanish → English*, instead of the translation approach into whatever language directly from the original Hebrew and Greek.
- **Ongoing “special revelation”:** God is still speaking today through the Mormon “living prophet” as well as his apostles, as he has to Mormon leaders in the past.





# Mormon Doctrine: Eternal Progression

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The Mormon concept of eternal progression lies at the heart of Mormon belief and practice.

- **Divine Potential:** The doctrine posits that all human beings have the potential to become like God, emphasizing that individuals can progress eternally and ultimately achieve godhood.
- **Pre-Earth Life:** Mormons believe individuals existed as spirits before their earthly life. This pre-mortal existence provides a framework for understanding the purpose of life on Earth as a step in eternal progression.
- **Earthly Experience:** Life on Earth is seen as a crucial period for growth and learning, where individuals experience trials, make choices, and develop virtues that contribute to their progression.
- **Sacred Ordinances:** Participation in essential ordinances (like baptism and temple ceremonies) is viewed as necessary for moving forward in the progression process and obtaining exaltation.
- **Continuous Growth:** Eternal progression is not viewed as a finite destination; rather, it entails an ongoing process of learning, development, and becoming more like God in a celestial perspective.
- **Role of Agency:** Personal agency is fundamental in the doctrine, allowing individuals to choose their paths and decisions significantly influence their progression and ultimate destiny.



# Mormon Doctrine: The Temple

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The Mormon Temple holds a central and sacred role in the beliefs and practices of Mormons, serving various spiritual functions:

- **Sacred Ordinances:** Temples are places where members participate in essential ordinances, including baptism for the dead, sealing of marriages, and receiving endowments. These ordinances are believed to be necessary for salvation and exaltation.
- **Covenant Renewal:** The temple provides a space for individuals to make and renew covenants with God. This process is integral to spiritual growth and commitment to living according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Spiritual Education:** Temples serve as centers for spiritual learning. Members gain deeper insights into doctrine and eternal truths via temple ceremonies and teachings, helping reinforce their faith.
- **A House of Peace and Prayer:** The temple is viewed as a sanctuary from the outside world, where individuals can seek guidance, solace, and spiritual connection through prayer and meditation.
- **Work for the Dead:** Through vicarious ordinances performed in the temple, Mormons believe they can offer salvation to deceased ancestors. This aspect emphasizes the belief in eternal families and the interconnectedness of generations. Main reason why they are so well-known for their work in genealogy.
- **Preparation for Eternal Life:** Teachings and ceremonies performed in the temple are believed to prepare individuals for life after death, reinforcing concepts of eternal progression and divine potential.



# Mormon Doctrine: Eternal (Celestial) Marriage

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The Mormon doctrine of eternal marriage is found (in part) in D&C Section 132, vv 19-20:

- “And again, verily I say to you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and it is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood; and it shall be said unto them – Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths – then shall it be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fullness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever. Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them”.





# Worldview Analysis & Heart Discernment

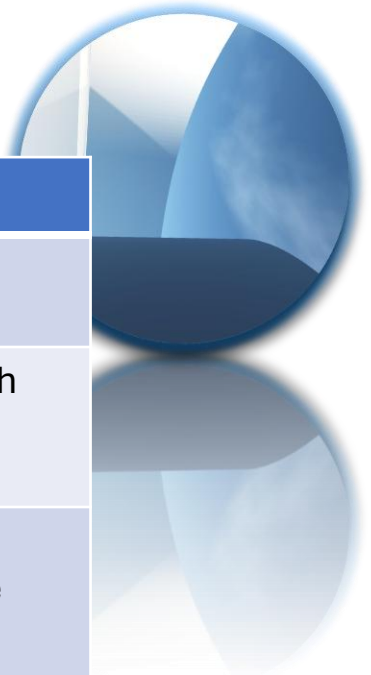
# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

## Question 1:

What does **Mormonism** believe about the nature of God?

- **Answers: Who or What is God?**

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
“Elohim”	Mormons view God the Father as Elohim, one of innumerable self-progressing bodily deities; formerly a man, a finite creature; now the principal deity of the Earth.
Physical / an evolved man	“God was once a man who, by obedience, advanced to his present state of perfection; through obedience and celestial marriage, we (man) may progress to the point where we become like God.” Basically: <i>God became God by obedience to Law.</i>
Polytheistic / The Trinity	Mormons view the Trinity as a tritheistic (three-god) grouping of deities, coordinated under general Mormon polytheism. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are separate deities and are the principal gods for this earth, but there are also an infinite number of gods across an infinite number of worlds. Every Mormon who is “exalted” will himself become a god – in the fullest sense of that term.
Finite (not infinite)	God and man are of the same species, just at different stages of progress.
Literal father of the spirits of mortals	Elohim is called the Father, because he is the literal father of the spirits of mortals (literal, not allegorical).
“As man is, God once was...”	God achieved his godhood through eternal progression from being a man to becoming a god.





# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

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## Question 2:

What does **Mormonism** believe about the nature of Man?

- **Answers:** Who am I?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>Pre-existent</b>	Mormons believe man is a pre-existent spirit with the potential to earn godhood by obedience to Mormon dictates. Man is an eternal being; never created and unable to be destroyed, but able to advance, progress, and develop by obedience.
<b>“As God is, man may become”</b>	Through “eternal progression”, man can attain godhood – this is the Mormon “gospel”
<b>Growth After Death</b>	The beliefs extend beyond earthly life; after death, individuals continue to progress and develop. The ultimate goal is to achieve exaltation and become a god, completing the cycle of eternal progression.
<b>Moral Agency</b>	Mormons place significant emphasis on the concept of agency, meaning that individuals have the ability to choose between good and evil. This ability is central to their understanding of accountability and growth.



# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

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## Question 3:

What does **Mormonism** believe about the relationship between Man and God?

- **Answers:** Who am I (“We”) in relation to God?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
God as Father	Men are “spirit children” of God (Elohim)
God as not unique	God was once a man like us; godhood is attainable for man
Reconciliation of sinful man	Jesus’ atonement made salvation possible (but did not accomplish it), by atoning for original sin



# Worldview Questions: God, Man, & Identity

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## Question 4:

What does **Mormonism** believe is the collective identity of its adherents?

- **Answers:** Who are “We”? Who “We” in relation to God?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>The only true Christian religion</b>	Mormonism claims to constitute the only true Christian religion on earth. D&C states Mormonism is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth”. Other statements include “all other systems of religion are false” and “we cannot accept that any other church can lead its members to salvation”.
<b>Covenant People</b>	Mormons view themselves as a covenant people, having made sacred promises with God through baptism and other ordinances. This collective identity emphasizes the importance of living according to God's commandments and supporting one another in spiritual growth.
<b>Missionary Focus</b>	The commitment to share the faith is a vital part of the collective identity. Many members participate in missionary work, seeing it as an obligation to spread their beliefs and principles to others.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

## Question 5:

What does **Mormonism** believe is wrong with the world?

- **Answers:** What is the problem?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
Guidance and Truth	Mormons emphasize the need for divine guidance through scripture, revelation, and church teachings. Access to these truths helps individuals navigate life's challenges and make moral choices.
Sin and Moral Decay	Mormons teach that sin is pervasive and manifests in various forms, contributing to societal issues like violence, addiction, and injustice. This moral decline is seen as a significant barrier to peace and happiness.
Personal Agency and Growth	The Mormon belief in moral agency underscores the idea that individuals must actively choose to seek God, understand His teachings, and strive for personal development to address the problems in the world.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

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## Question 6:

What does **Mormonism** believe is the solution to what's wrong?

- **Answers:** What is the solution?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
Personal Revelation and Guidance	Mormons believe in the importance of personal revelation and receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit. This divine guidance helps individuals make righteous decisions and navigate life's challenges.
Right living / obedience to Mormon teaching	Since salvation is of works/earned, right living and avoiding sin is paramount



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

## Question 7:

What does **Mormonism** teach is the way to live in the world based on ‘the time’?

- **Answers:** How should I (“We”) live today, given ‘the time’? (*kairos\**)?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
Scripture Study	Members are encouraged to read the scriptures daily, including the Bible and the Book of Mormon, to deepen their understanding of spiritual teachings and principles.
Moral Living	Adherents are expected to live according to high moral standards, including honesty, integrity, and chastity. This includes abstaining from behaviors considered sinful, such as substance abuse and premarital sexual relations.
Obedience to Commandments	Following the commandments given in scripture and through church leaders is a daily commitment. This includes aspects like tithing (giving 10% of income to the church) and avoiding harmful substances.
Continuous Self-Improvement	Mormons are encouraged to engage in personal development, setting spiritual and temporal goals. This lifelong learning and striving for improvement reflect the belief in eternal progression.



# Worldview Questions: Problem, Solution & Value

## Question 8:

What does **Mormonism** teach its adherents to value most in life?

- **Answers:** What shall I (“We”) desire, pursue, and love?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>Personal Revelation and Spiritual Growth</b>	Members are taught to value personal revelation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Ongoing spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, and reflection is essential for their faith journey.
<b>Education and Knowledge</b>	The pursuit of knowledge, both spiritual and secular, is highly encouraged. Mormons value education as a means to better serve others and fulfill their potential.
<b>Moral Integrity</b>	Adherents are encouraged to pursue honesty, righteousness, and high ethical standards in all aspects of life. Living with integrity is seen as vital for personal and spiritual growth.
<b>Family</b>	Family is highly valued, believed to be eternal and central to God’s plan. Members are encouraged to nurture familial relationships, prioritize family time, and work towards strengthening family bonds.





# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

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## Question 9:

What does **Mormonism** believe is the end purpose of Man?

- **Answers:** Where am I (“We”) going (telos\*)?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>Exaltation to godhood</b>	This is the “gospel” of the Mormon church. They view exaltation to godhood as the highest part of the celestial kingdom based on individual good works and personal merit in this life and during pre-existence. Exaltation incorporates ruling a new world and sexual procreation in order to produce spirit children who will eventually be embodied and inhabit the world, each then having the opportunity to be exalted, or deified.
<b>Death, heaven, and hell</b>	<i>Death</i> is viewed as “a step upward”. It represents the possibility of a form of salvation (if not exaltation) for those who have never heard of Mormonism. <i>Heaven</i> consists of three “kingdoms of glory” comprising various spiritual gradations. <i>Hell</i> is generally purgatorial (more like serving a jail or prison term); possibly eternal for a very few (primarily apostate Mormons).



# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

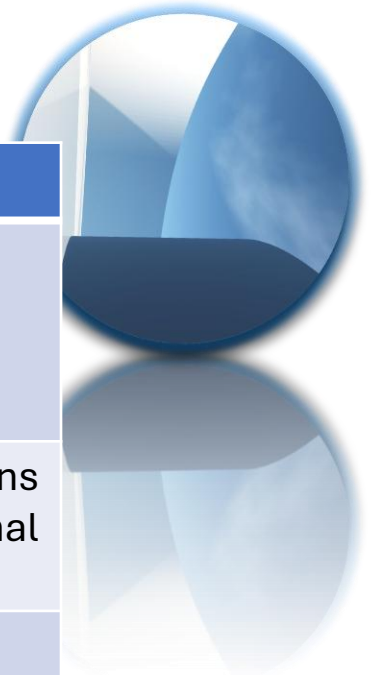
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## Question 10:

What does **Mormonism** believe is the end purpose of the Existence?

- **Answers:** Where is the whole world going?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>General salvation</b>	Mormons call this “salvation by grace”, and affirms this occurs to all people. It involves only resurrection from the dead and immortality, and does not decide a person’s specific residence or degree of glory in the next life. General salvation is based on grace.
<b>Individual salvation</b>	Determines which of the three “heavens” one goes to and whether or not one earns true “eternal life” (godhood). Individual salvation is based on good works / personal righteousness (merit).
<b>The three “kingdoms of glory”</b>	Lowest one is the “telestial kingdom” – the place of the wicked, where most of humanity will reside, excluded from the presences of God and Christ. The one above this is the “terrestrial kingdom” – the place where lukewarm Mormons, good non-Mormons, and those who accept Mormonism after death go. The highest kingdom is the “celestial kingdom” – gained by “complete obedience” to gospel law. This kingdom has 3 parts, but only the highest part is where salvation in its fullest sense is found – attaining absolute godhood and eternal sexual increase. Concept of “hell” may be reserved for apostate Mormons, but views differ.



# Worldview Questions: Direction, End & Heart

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## Question 11:

What does **Mormonism** reveal about the heart state of its adherents?

- **Answers:** Where is their heart? How do I as a believer discern their heart?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>Exaltation to Godhood is the goal</b>	Remember, this is the Mormon “gospel”
<b>Highest level of heaven is only attainable via covenant marriage</b>	Since continuing procreation is part of the exalted state, the only way to achieve the highest of the 3 levels of the highest heaven is through covenant marriage.
<b>Salvation is by works (earned)</b>	And thus, man-dependent
<b>Assurance of Salvation</b>	Salvation is viewed as a process; members must continually strive to remain worthy through good works and obedience.
<b>The Mormon church is the only true church</b>	Christianity is viewed as sectarianism; a false and damnable apostate religion



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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## Question 12:

What does **Mormonism** believe about the nature, work, and person of Christ?

- **Answers:** What do they *think* about Christ? What do they *do* with Him?

Aspect	Mormon Perspective
<b>“Jehovah”</b>	Jesus is a self-progressing deity and the first spirit child of “Elohim” and his wife. Lucifer is Jesus’ brother (another spirit child of Elohim)
<b>Created, not eternal</b>	As per above; has not always existed. Had to earn his salvation.
<b>“Organizer”, <i>not</i> Creator</b>	Teach that Jehovah (and Michael) were sent by Elohim to “organize” the earth from pre-existent materials (“elements”) that were already present.
<b>Virgin birth</b>	Christ was born through a physical sex act between God the Father (the Mormon earth god “Elohim”) and Mary, and therefore <i>not</i> a virgin birth.
<b>Atonement</b>	Is simply the provision that God has supplied for people to earn their own salvation “by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel”. The atonement does raise them from the dead, but that’s all it does – has no saving value.



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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## Question 13:

What does **Mormonism** reveal about how Christians can/should evangelize them?

- **Answers:** How do I as a believer share the Gospel and teach them Christ?
- This is “Speaking the truth in love”.

**You will be hard-pressed to witness to a Mormon in only one encounter.**

A helpful resource is “100 Verses for Witnessing to Mormons”

*(link at the end of this slide deck)*

James White has compiled a list of 100 verses (organized by topic) to help guide a witnessing discussion with Mormons. Topics included are as follows, and help address the main categories regarding salvation where Mormonism deviates from biblical teaching/Christianity.

**Section 1 – The Authority of God’s Word**

**Section 2 – The Mormon Testimony**

**Section 3 – God**

- *There is only one God*
- *Who are/is Yahweh and Elohim?*
- *God’s nature*

**Section 4 – Jesus and Lucifer**

**Section 5 – Blood atonement**

**Section 6 - Priesthoods**

**Section 7 – Salvation**

- *The Gospel*
- *Sin*
- *Faith*
- *Justification*
- *Works*

**Section 8 – Miscellaneous**



# Worldview Questions: Christ, Gospel & Witness

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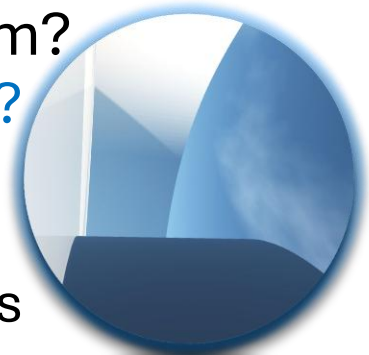
## Question 14:

What does **Mormonism** reveal about how Christians can minister to them?

- **Answers:** How do I as a believer show them Christ and reflect Him rightly?
- This is “Loving my neighbor as myself”

There are numerous Scriptural principles that guide how we as Christians can interact with Mormons just as we should with everyone who doesn't know Jesus Savior and Lord.

- **1 Peter 3:15** – “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, *always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you*, yet with gentleness and fear,”
- **Ephesians 4:15** – “But *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is Christ.”
- **Galatians 6:10** – “So then, *while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people*, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15** – “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but *always seek after that which is good* for one another and *for all men*.”
- **Colossians 3:12** – “So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, *put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience*.”





# Suggested Resources for Further Study

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**Is the Mormon My Brother?** *by James White (Solid Ground Christian Books)*

<https://www.amazon.com/Mormon-My-Brother-James-White/dp/1599251205/>

**Letters to a Mormon Elder** *by James White (Solid Ground Christian Books)*

<https://www.amazon.com/Letters-Mormon-Elder-James-White/dp/1599251191/>

**The Facts on the Mormon Church** *by John Ankerberg (Harvest House)*

<https://www.amazon.com/Facts-Mormon-Church/dp/0736922164/>

**Utah Lighthouse Ministries** *(former Mormon couple)*

<https://utlm.org/>

**100 Verses for Witnessing to Mormons** *(Alpha and Omega Ministries)*

<https://www.aomin.org/aoblog/mormonism/100-verses-for-witnessing-to-mormons/>

