

## **Richard Gutknecht's notes on Mormonism**

**(for his 10.26.2022 appearance on The Road To Concord)**

### **Warning**

Don't listen if you are secure in your faith

Reasons for leaving the church Church myth that people only leave because two reasons:

1. Being offended by a leader or some other member.
2. Unrepentant sin that they feel unworthy to attend.

I left over DOCTRINAL issues. This would never even enter the mind of a faithful Mormon!

### **Emotionalism**

**Moroni 10:3-5**

3 Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.

4 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.

5 And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

## Keystone doctrine logic.

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (History of the Church, 4:461.)

## Here is the logic

If the Book of Mormon is true (See above all you have to do is PRAY to find out for yourself)

### THEN

Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God (Of course he translated it by the gift and power of God right?)

### THEN

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the ONLY true and living church upon the face of the whole earth and salvation comes only through its ordinances and teachings. (See Joseph Smith History Below)

18 My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)—and which I should join.

19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”

20 He again forbade me to join with any of them; and many other things did he say unto me, which I cannot write at this time. (Joseph Smith History)

Also the “True” Church organized just like Christ’s church with twelve apostles, seventies, elders, deacons, priests etc.

## **The Name**

Mormon belief

Elohim the NAME of God the Father – the Creator

Jehovah - Jesus Christ

After leaning some basic Hebrew and learning the name of the creator was used over 6, 825 times in the TANAK, I figured it would be important to learn more. Yahweh is the proper name of the Creator. Elohim is a title that can be rightly attributed to Yahweh, but also is used in reference to pagan deities, judges and other men, Moses included.

## **Scriptural Hierarchy**

Mormon

Mine

Words of “ current Prophets and Apostles”

Torah

Book of Mormon

Remainder of TANAK

Doctrine and Covenants

New Testament

Pearl of Great Price

The Bible so far as it has been translated correctly

## **Eighth Article of Faith**

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.”

### **Twisted Scripture Ezekiel 37:15-19**

15 The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions:

17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

18 And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

The word stick here in the Hebrew is “ets” meaning a literal stick as in a piece of wood. Had it been a scroll as Mormons purport, the Hebrew word of sepher (book) or Megillah (Scroll or parchment) would have been used.

## Scripture vs. “Modern” Prophets or “Modern” Revelation

Past prophets of the church have taught that The LORD will never permit the President of the Church to lead you astray. (*Official Declaration 1*, President Wilford Woodruff and *The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*) More recently they have expanded this statement to include all leadership. (“Be Not Deceived”, *Ensign*, Nov 1983)

### D&C 135

3 Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

Root of Jesse Isaiah 11 vs D&C 113

**A distinctly American”” religion – Constitution will hang by a thread**

Joseph Smith petitioned Washington for redress for persecution against the church.

Joseph Smith ran, unsuccessfully for President

*“As man now is, God once was:”*

*“As God now is, man may be.” Lorenzo Snow 5th president of the Church*

Inspired by the King Follet Sermon by Joseph Smith?

### Isaiah 45

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other,

besides me there is no God;

I equip you, though you do not know me,

6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is none besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

**1 -- Did Smith say he got his message or golden tablets from an angel in a cave, or in a way somehow connected to a cave? No, they were found in a stone/cement box in the ground under a rock on the Hill Cumorah in Western New York**

**2 -- Did Smith say he was told the Bible had been corrupted and he had been chosen to restore the original version, or the version in heaven?**

Joseph did say there were problems with the bible and it had become corrupted. He did "correct" the Bible in what is now known as the Joseph Smith Translation. Some parts are just a verse or two, other places he re-wrote or added entire chapters.

**3 -- Did Smith say the Bible is only the Bible if it is HIS translated version? And does that mean the Mormons use a different Bible?**

The Bible is part of the Mormon cannon. (8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith) However, it is considered subservient to the Book of Mormon AND the words of the "Living" Prophet.

**4 -- Did Smith say that God is actually Adam and that Jesus and Satan are brothers?**

Mormon doctrine does state that Jesus and Satan were brothers in the pre-existence. The Adam-God doctrine was primarily that of Brigham Young (the second "Prophet" of the church) The church has since distanced itself from the Adam-God doctrine.

**5 -- Did Smith actually say that Jesus was born out of some temporary marriage between Adam(god) and Mary?**

This one is a bit hard to answer as to actual doctrine. However, Mormons believe the Holy Spirit is a separate personage of the God Head and that He is currently Spirit, but there is some speculation that during the Millennium He will receive a resurrected body of flesh and bone. With this understanding and the Bible stating that Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, again speculation is that the Holy Spirit had some type of sexual encounter with Mary such that Jesus became both God and man. This is not however clearly spelled out in Mormon doctrine.

**6 -- Didn't Smith teach that you have to work to save yourself and that Jesus only covers that part of the debt you owe that you could not 'work off?'**

Mormon doctrine on this can best be summarized by this verse in the Book of Mormon

For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do. (2 Nephi 25:23)

So Mormon doctrine states we are saved by grace, but our works determine what quality of life we will have in the several degrees of heaven that Mormon's believe exist in the afterlife.

**7 -- IF SO, does this mean that -- ACCORDING TO SMITH - Jesus's sacrifice is not enough: that you must have works?**

Well, yes and no. As I mentioned salvation is considered by Mormons to be a free gift from God if you accept Jesus as your Savior. However, in order to get to the highest degree in the Celestial Kingdom (The highest of the kingdoms and it in itself has three degrees within it) You Must accept the Gospel according to Mormon Doctrine, you must be baptized by the appropriate priesthood authority (that only

Mormons have), you must receive your Temple Initiatories and Endowments, and be sealed to a husband or wife in the Temple and endure faithfully to the end. Mormons believe temple ordinances are salvific, they also believe that they can save their dead relatives by performing these temple ordinances vicariously for their deceased relatives.

## 8 -- Did Smith teach there are levels to heaven?

There are three degrees of Glory in Heaven

Celestial (highest degree which is further divided into three levels within it)

50 And again we bear record—for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just—

51 They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given—

52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

53 And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.

54 They are they who are the church of the Firstborn.

55 They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things—

56 They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fulness, and of his glory;

57 And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.

58 Wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God—

59 Wherefore, all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's. Doctrine and Covenants 76:50-59

## **Terrestrial**

71 And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo, these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn who have received the fulness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament.

72 Behold, these are they who died without law;

73 And also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh;

74 Who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it.

75 These are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men.

76 These are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fulness.

77 These are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fulness of the Father.

78 Wherefore, they are bodies terrestrial, and not bodies celestial, and differ in glory as the moon differs from the sun.

79 These are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore, they obtain not the crown over the kingdom of our God. (Doctrine and Covenants 76:71-79)

## Telestial

81 And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differs from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament.

82 These are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus.

83 These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit.

84 These are they who are thrust down to hell.

85 These are they who shall not be redeemed from the devil until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished his work.

86 These are they who receive not of his fulness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial;

87 And the terrestrial through the ministration of the celestial.

88 And also the telestial receive it of the administering of angels who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them; for they shall be heirs of salvation.

89 And thus we saw, in the heavenly vision, the glory of the telestial, which surpasses all understanding;

90 And no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it.

91 And thus we saw the glory of the terrestrial which excels in all things the glory of the telestial, even in glory, and in power, and in might, and in dominion.

99 For these are they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and of Cephas.

100 These are they who say they are some of one and some of another—some of Christ and some of John, and some of Moses, and some of Elias, and some of Esaias, and some of Isaiah, and some of Enoch;

101 But received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets, neither the everlasting covenant.

102 Last of all, these all are they who will not be gathered with the saints, to be caught up unto the church of the Firstborn, and received into the cloud.

103 These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.

104 These are they who suffer the wrath of God on earth.

105 These are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

106 These are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God, until the fullness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under his feet, and shall have perfected his work; Doctrine and Covenants 76:81-106)

Outer Darkness (only Satan and the sons of Perdition) (Not considered a Kingdom of Glory)

73 These shall go away into outer darkness, where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. (Doctrine and Covenants 113:73)

**9 -- Did Smith teach that, at the highest level, a person can become a god and receive their own planet?**

Yes, if you do all that is required to obtain the HIGHEST degree of the Celestial Kingdom then you are able to have an “eternal increase” that is to say, you can have Spirit Children and then create a world for them to dwell on and you become their god.

**10 -- Did Smith say that polygamy was 'the sacrament,' and that it is somehow connected to achieving the highest level of salvation?**

I have never heard of polygamy referred to as a sacrament. However, Mormons do still believe in polygamy. Now it is mostly practiced as a Spiritual law. A man can be “sealed” to more than one wife in the temple. If all remain worthy they will be in a polygamist relationship in the eternities.

**11 -- Is polygomy still a part of Mormon theology?**

Yes. Although it is only taught in the spiritual sense now.

**12 -- Was the Mormon church racist at any time? If so, when and why did that change?**

For well over 125 years the church practiced institutional racism! Mostly begun by Brigham Young (second “prophet” of the church) and several other early “apostles.”.

Rescinded in September 1978 by then “Prophet” Spencer W. Kimball

Following this “revelation” changes were made to the wording of the Book of Mormon to hide the former racism in the book and make it more politically correct.

<p>2 Nephi 30:6</p>	<p>And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people.</p>	<p>And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white pure and a delightsome people.</p>
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**13 -- Didn't the Mormon church reject the title of 'Christian?' If so, why do they now accept it and why does Beck insist that Mormons are as Christian as any other Protestant or Catholic?**

Yes and no. Christian is a loaded word in Mormonism. The saying “My Jesus is better than your Jesus” applies. Mormons do not consider themselves to be Protestant as they did not “protest” against the Catholic Church. They consider their Church to be the RESTORED church and the ONLY true and living Church upon the face of the whole earth.

**14 -- When Glenn Beck says, 'The Constitution is hanging by a thread,' is he sending a secret message to other Mormons?**

Yes, This gets a bit complicated as far as sources go. This originated in what has come to be called the White Horse prophecy an address given by Joseph Smith. We do not have the actual speech but there are about three independent accounts recorded in either short hand or diary entries close to the time of the speech.

In 1855, Brigham Young reportedly wrote that "when the Constitution of the United States hangs, as it were, upon a single thread, they will have to call for the 'Mormon' Elders to save it from utter destruction; and they will step forth and do it."

This "prophecy" has been reiterated numerous times over the years by at least a half dozen General Authorities, so it has become "doctrine."

77 According to the laws and constitution of the people, which I have suffered to be established, and should be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles;

80 And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood. (Doctrine and Covenants 101:77, 80)

**15 -- Is there anything else Beck has said to his audience that Christians might want to be aware of?**

"Scriptures" A Mormon keyword meaning the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price and Yes! The words of Modern Prophets.

**'Christian' is a loaded word with Mormons.**