

GLOSSARY OF MORMON TERMS

From *Witness to Mormons in Love*, by Daniel G. Thompson
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A

Adam—Also known as Michael the Archangel and the Ancient of Days, see Ancient of Days.

“The first man. The father of the human race. Before his earth life, he was known as Michael. He led the righteous in the war in heaven. He helped in the creation of the earth.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, Glossary/Adam, 1979/1990.)

“Our great prince, *Michael*, known in mortality as *Adam*, stands next to Christ in the eternal plan of salvation and progression... In the creation of the earth, Michael played a part second only to that of Christ. When Lucifer rebelled and there was war in heaven, it was Michael who led the hosts of the faithful in casting Satan out. When the time came to people the earth, the spirit Michael came and inhabited the body formed from the dust of the earth, the living soul thus created being known as *Adam*.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 491.)

Ancient of Days—See Adam

“When Adam was placed on this earth all his former knowledge was taken away. Yet the Lord has made known to us that Adam lived before and had experiences as Michael, the great prince, who was chosen to stand as the head of the human family on this earth as the Ancient of Days.” (*The Way to Perfection*, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1931, p. 18.)

“Daniel in his seventh chapter speaks of the Ancient of Days; he means the oldest man, our Father Adam... He (*Adam*) is the father of the human family, and presides over the spirits of all men... The Son of Man stands before him, and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up his stewardship to Christ... but retains his standing as head of the human family.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 157.)

Adultery—In the LDS Church, adultery is a sin like unto murder in that it can become an unforgivable sin. Commit adultery once and, through a long repentance process, you can be forgiven; but if you commit adultery again, it cannot be totally forgiven—Two strikes and you’re out!

“Next to Murder in Seriousness—The enormity of this sin is underlined by numerous scriptures... The Lord apparently rates adultery close to premeditated murder... The grievousness of the sin enhances the difficulty of repenting. Sometimes offenders reach the point of no return and cannot repent... The penalty in this life is similarly clearly defined: ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out’. (D&C 42:24)... The sin is forgivable providing the repentance is sufficiently comprehensive.

‘But if he doeth it again, he shall not be forgiven, but shall be cast out.’” (D&C 42:26.) (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, p. 62-63, 72-73.)

Apostate—Anyone who was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and who left the Church is termed an ‘apostate’. It is taught by the LDS Church that gross sin is the initial cause of apostasy, followed by the departure of the Holy Ghost—which then allows Satan to take possession of the person’s mind and which will cause the person to lose faith in truths that can only be found in the LDS Church. This departure from truth will ultimately result in excommunication from the LDS Church making them ‘sons of perdition’—sealed to Satan for all eternity. Apostates are, therefore, treated by the LDS Community with the greatest contempt. Often, apostates will lose their jobs or their businesses will go bankrupt (because the LDS community may totally shun them.) They also lose their social status in the community which means they lose friends and sometimes even family (through divorce.) The fear of being called an ‘apostate’ often manipulates LDS people into staying in the Church, long after they understand Mormonism to be false.

“...*The apostate*—the man who is bitter in his soul, who has known the truth but has turned away from the light and rejected the gospel.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 188.)

“*Fate of Apostates*— ...Almost without exception when a person leaves the Church, it is due to *transgression*. The Spirit of the Lord will not dwell in unclean tabernacles, and *when the Spirit is withdrawn, darkness supersedes the light, and apostasy will follow... In the Church when a man sins and continues without repentance, the Spirit is withdrawn, and when he is left to himself the adversary takes possession of his mind and he denies the faith... But when he turns away, he still knows that he once had the light*. The Lord has said of such: ‘All those who know my power, and have been made partakers thereof, and suffered themselves through the power of the devil to be overcome, and to deny the truth and defy my power—They are they who are the sons of perdition, of whom I say that it had been better for them never to have been born’.
...*Severity Of Judgment Upon Apostates*— ...Let it be remembered, however, that the punishment of the apostate, no matter who he is or what degree of knowledge he may have attained, shall be most severe. ‘Hearken and hear, O ye my people, saith the Lord and your God... ye that hear me not will I curse, *that have professed my name, with the heaviest of all cursings*’. ...*Excommunicated Persons Lose All Blessings*—What will be the status of a person born under the covenant if excommunicated from the Church? When a person is excommunicated from the Church, every blessing is withdrawn and lost...” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 3, p. 308-311.)

Atonement of Christ—According to Mormonism, the atonement took place mostly in the Garden of Gethsemane (*and partially on the cross at Calvary*.) Although Mormonism gives lip service to the cross, the greatest suffering and the actual atonement is believed to have taken place in the Garden.

Mormonism also divides the atonement into two parts; the first is unconditional atonement, the second conditional atonement. Unconditional atonement is ‘salvation by grace’

for all people (*except sons of perdition*) and is resurrection from the grave/immortality—living in one of the three LDS kingdoms of glory. Conditional atonement is complying with the LDS laws, commandments, and ordinances which will then determine which kingdom of glory a person has earned. In its fulness, conditional atonement can earn the most valiant persons eternal life/exaltation or in-other-words godhood.

“It was in Gethsemane that Jesus took on Himself the sins of the world, in Gethsemane that His pain was equivalent to the cumulative burden of all men, in Gethsemane that He descended below all things so that all could repent and come to Him... He suffered the pains of all men in Gethsemane so they would not have to suffer if they would repent. Only then did He voluntarily submit to death.” (*Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p.14-15.)

“PASSION OF CHRIST— ...The sectarian world falsely suppose that the climax of his torture and suffering was on the cross—a view which they keep ever before them by the constant use of the cross as a religious symbol. The fact is that intense and severe as the suffering was on the cross, yet the great pains were endured in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was there that he trembled because of pain, bled at every pore, and suffered both in body and in spirit... It was there he underwent his greatest suffering for men, taking upon himself, as he did, their sins on conditions of repentance.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 555.)

“Twofold Nature of Atonement. The atonement of Jesus Christ is of a twofold nature. Because of it, all men are redeemed from mortal death and the grave, and will rise in the resurrection to immortality of the soul. Then again, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel, man will receive remission of individual sins, through the blood of Christ, and will inherit exaltation in the kingdom of God, which is eternal life.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 123.)

“ATONEMENT AND SINS UNTO DEATH. *Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone, as far as possible, in their behalf.*” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, pp. 135-136.)

Authority—See Priesthood.

B

Baptism—By immersion is synonymous with being ‘born again’ and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“Baptism is the first saving ordinance of the gospel... *Being Born Again*. Through the ordinance of baptism and confirmation, you were born again into a new life. The Savior said to Nicodemus, ‘Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God’ (John 3:5.)” (*True to the Faith*, LDS Church, 2004, p. 21, 25.)

“Why must we be baptized? WE MUST BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF OUR SINS... WE MUST BE BAPTIZED BEFORE WE CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST... WE MUST BE BAPTIZED TO ENTER THE CELESTIAL KINGDOM... Baptism by immersion by one having the proper authority is the only true and acceptable way of being baptized.” (Gospel Principles, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 20, ‘Baptism’.)

Baptism for the dead—LDS people go to LDS temples to do works for the dead. Baptism for the dead is just one of the proxy works performed for the dead in LDS temples.

“Ordinances for the Dead—People who have died without essential gospel ordinances may receive those ordinances through the work done in temples. You may do this work in behalf of your ancestors and others who have died. Acting for them, you can be baptized and confirmed, receive the endowment, and participate in the sealings of husband to wife and children to parents.” (True to the Faith, LDS Church, 2004, p. 171-172.)

“The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us, is to seek after our dead’ because we cannot be saved without them. ...while it is necessary to preach the gospel in the nations of the earth, and to do all the other good works in the Church, yet the greatest commandment given us, and made obligatory, is the temple work in our own behalf and in behalf of our dead.” (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 149.)

[NOTE: 1 Corinthians 15:29, “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?” How should you respond to a Mormon who brings up this Biblical passage in support of ‘baptism for the dead?’

The key to interpreting this passage is the CONTEXT. You will notice in verse 29 the word ‘they’ is used. Then, in verse 30 ‘we’ is used. These two verses have two different groups of people in mind. In verse 29, ‘they’ corresponds with the ‘false teachers’ who were discussed in **1 Cor. 15:12**. In verse 30, ‘we’ are the Christians who are being persecuted for their belief in the resurrection. The Apostle Paul is the master of sarcasm. In his writings, when something is ridiculous, Paul often uses sarcasm to expose the error. In verse 29 Paul is using sarcasm to point out the fact that the false teachers are contradicting themselves—if there is no resurrection from the dead, why then are ‘they’ having people get baptized for the dead—it would be pointless.

Another idea you can bring up with your LDS friend is the fact that no ‘baptisms for the dead’ are ever talked about in the Book of Mormon which is supposed to contain the ‘fulness of the everlasting gospel’—see the ‘Introduction’ to the Book of Mormon. The fact that works for the dead are never mentioned in the Book of Mormon supports our interpretation of **1 Cor. 15:29**. Plus, because 1 Cor. 15 is the only place where ‘baptism for the dead’ is mentioned in either the Bible or the Book of Mormon proves this to be an isolated practice not associated with the Lord's true Church or it would be mentioned in more than just this one place.]

Bible—The LDS Church goes to great lengths to discredit the authority of the Bible. The Book of Mormon describes how the early Christian Church fell into apostasy and corrupted the Bible (see **1 Nephi Chapter 13**.) On the one hand, the LDS Church uses the Bible to authenticate its

claim to be 'Christian' and on the other hand undermines the Bible by teaching LDS people not to trust it.

"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly." (The Pearl of Great Price, 'Eighth Article of Faith', LDS Church, 1981.)

"The Bible, as it has been transmitted over the centuries, has suffered the loss of many plain and precious parts." ('Letter Reaffirms Use of King James Bible', President Ezra Taft Benson, Gordon B. Hinckley, & Thomas Monson, *Church News*, June 20, 1992, p. 3.)

"What shall we say then, concerning the Bible's being a sufficient guide? Can we rely upon it in its present known corrupted state, as being a faithful record of God's word? We all know that but a few of the inspired writings have descended to our times... Who knows how many important doctrines and ordinances necessary to salvation may be buried in oblivion in some of the lost books? ...But the Bible has been robbed of its plainness; many sacred books having been lost, others rejected by the Romish Church, and what few we have left, were copied and recopied so many times, that it is admitted that almost every verse has been corrupted and mutilated to that degree that scarcely any two of them read alike." (Orson Pratt, *Divine Authenticity of Book of Mormon*, No. 3 (December 1, 1850), and *The Seer*, Orson Pratt, 1853-54, p. 213.)

Blacks—Although the LDS Church is trying to distance itself from the teachings of LDS Prophets and Apostles in regard to the 'blacks/negroes' or really anyone who has skin that is not 'white and delightsome' (see **2 Nephi 5:21**), the fact remains—the official doctrines of Mormonism past cannot be erased! Mormonism was and still is a racist religion.

"NEGROES—In the pre-existent eternity various degrees of valiance and devotion to the truth were exhibited by different groups of our Father's spirit offspring. One-third of the spirit hosts of heaven came out in open rebellion and were cast out without bodies, becoming the devil and his angels. The other two-thirds stood affirmatively for Christ... Of the two-thirds who followed Christ, however, some were more valiant than others... Those who were less valiant in pre-existence and who thereby had certain spiritual restrictions imposed upon them during mortality are known to us as the *negroes*. Such spirits are sent to the earth through the lineage of Cain, the mark put upon him for his rebellion against God and his murder of Abel being a black skin... Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty... The present status of the negro rests purely and simply on the foundation of pre-existence... The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned, particularly the priesthood and the temple blessings that flow therefrom, but this inequality is not of man's origin. It is the Lord's doing, is based upon his eternal laws of justice, and grows out of the lack of spiritual valiance of those concerned in their first estate." (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 526-528.)

[NOTE: Thankfully, in 1978, the restrictions placed upon African Americans or anyone with darker colored skin was rescinded by the LDS Church and they now have equal standing in the LDS Church—BUT, there is really no way for the LDS religion to 'fix' this problem because in order to do so, they need to not only trash the past restrictions that were placed

upon the blacks but they also need to trash their scriptures which promote racism and their God who is the original racist! The only way to 'fix' this is to trash the entire religion, turn to the Jesus Christ of the Bible and the gospel of the Bible, and join the ranks of true Christianity.]

Born Again—See Baptism.

Book of Abraham— Since its publication in 1842, the Book of Abraham has been a source of controversy. Non-Mormon Egyptologists have raised a united voice disagreeing with Joseph Smith's explanations of the Egyptian facsimiles. They have also asserted that damaged portions of the papyri have been reconstructed incorrectly. The controversy intensified in 1966 when portions of the Joseph Smith Papyri were found and subsequently returned to the LDS Church. The translation of the Egyptian text by both Mormon and non-Mormon Egyptologists has shown that the rediscovered portions bore no relation to the original 'Book of Abraham' text.

"A translation from some Egyptian papyri that came into the hands of Joseph Smith in 1835, containing writings of the patriarch Abraham... A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt.—The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus." (Pearl of Great Price Introductory Note, and the 'Book of Abraham' Introductory Note.)

"Book of Abraham— ...Abraham was the original author, and the scriptural account contains priceless information about the gospel, preexistence, the nature of Deity, the creation, and priesthood, information which is not otherwise available in any other revelation now extant." (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 564.)

Book of Mormon—The Book of Mormon is considered to be the most important of the four books recognized as inspired scripture by the LDS Church. It is interesting to note that the Book of Mormon does not support many of the strange and unique doctrines of the LDS Church.

"The Prophet Joseph Smith said: '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.'" (Book of Mormon, INTRODUCTION, paragraph 6.)

"Of the four great standard works of the Church—the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price—I would particularly urge you to read again and again the Book of Mormon and ponder and apply its teachings." (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 557.)

"It is the Book of Mormon, not the Bible, that prepares men... for the Second Coming of the Son of Man. And when the eternal ledgers are finally balanced, more souls will have been saved in the celestial kingdom—ten thousand times over—because of the Book of Mormon than have so obtained because of the Bible." (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, McConkie, p. 394.)

C

Celestial Kingdom—Heavenly Father’s dwelling place, the highest LDS heaven. Only those who earn celestial glory will have the opportunity to one day reach the state of exaltation or godhood in the celestial kingdom.

“Celestial Glory for Those Who Keep the Whole Law—To enter the celestial and obtain exaltation it is necessary that the whole law be kept.” (The Way to Perfection, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 206.)

“Highest among the kingdoms of glory hereafter is the celestial kingdom. It is the kingdom of God... An inheritance in this glorious kingdom is gained by complete obedience to gospel or celestial law.” (Mormon Doctrine, McConkie, 1966, p. 116-17.)

“NOT HALF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS TO BE SAVED. Those who receive the fullness will be privileged to view the face of our Father. There will not be such an overwhelming number of Latter-day Saints who will get there. President Francis M. Lyman many times has declared... I believe, that if we save one-half of the Latter-day Saints, that is, with an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God, we will be doing well. Not that the Lord is partial, not that he will draw the line as some will say, to keep people out. He would have every one of us go in if we would; but there are laws and ordinances that we must keep; if we do not observe the law we cannot enter.” (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 15.)

Celestial Marriage—Only LDS people who are ‘worthy’ may be married in an LDS Temple for time and all eternity. To enter the LDS temple one must certify their worthiness in two interviews—a Bishop’s interview and a Stake Presidency interview. Approval is based upon individual worthiness through compliance with LDS law—those who are deemed worthy will then receive a ‘Temple Recommend’ which grants them entrance into the LDS temples.

“The prophets have uniformly taught that the consummate and culminating element of God’s great plan for the blessings of his children is eternal marriage... President Howard W. Hunter described celestial marriage as ‘The Crowning Gospel Ordinance.’” (‘Eternal Marriage’, Elder F. Burton Howard, Ensign, May, 2003, p. 92.)

“Celestial marriage is the gate to an exaltation in the highest heaven within the celestial world... The most important things that any member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ever does in this world are: 1. To marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority; and 2. To keep the covenant made in connection with this holy and perfect order of matrimony—thus assuring the obedient persons of an inheritance of exaltation in the celestial kingdom.” (Mormon Doctrine, McConkie, 1966, p. 118.)

Christianity—The multitudes of Gentiles who believe in the Christian Jesus and who were led astray by the great and abominable Church, the Church of the Devil (*see 1 Nephi Chapters 13-14.*)

“The people called Christians are shrouded in ignorance, and read the Scriptures with darkened understandings.” (*Journal of Discourses* 7:333, Brigham Young, October 8, 1859.)

“Every Latter-day Saint knows that following the death of the apostles, Paul’s prophecy was fulfilled, for there were many ‘grievous wolves’ that entered the flock, and men arose ‘speaking perverse things’, so that the doctrines were changed and the true Church of Jesus Christ ceased to be on the earth.” (*Man, His Origin and Destiny*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 467.)

One BYU professor explained, “Since whoever does not belong to ‘the church of the Lamb of God’ belongs to ‘the church of the devil’, as Nephi announced, then all systems of worship outside of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would be classified as ‘the church of the devil’ by Nephi’s definition.” (Kent B. Jackson, “‘Watch and Remember’: The New Testament and the Great Apostasy”; John M. Lundquist and Stephen D. Ricks, eds., *By Study and Also by Faith: Essays in Honor of Hugh W. Nibley on the Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday, 27 March 1990*, 1:87.)

Council of the Gods—In heaven, the LDS religion teaches that there were councils held by the Gods to make the necessary decisions in regard to the creation of our earth.

“COUNCIL IN HEAVEN—There were many meetings, conferences, *councils*, and schooling sessions held among the Gods and their spirit offspring in pre-existence. Among other things, at these various assemblages, plans were made for the creation and peopling of this earth and for the redemption and salvation of the offspring of Deity... Joseph Smith speaks of ‘the head of the Gods’ calling ‘a council of the Gods’ to arrange for the creation and peopling of the earth. He also speaks of ‘the grand council of heaven’ in which those destined ‘to minister to the inhabitants of the world’ were ‘ordained’ to their respective callings.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 163-164.)

Creation—The creation of our earth was directed by the Father and organized by Jesus Christ, many preexistent spirit children of God also participated in the creation of this world. The LDS Church teaches matter and/or the elements are eternal, so our earth and everything on it was created from existing matter—they do not believe in creation ‘ex nihilo’—a Latin phrase meaning ‘out of nothing’.

“Under the direction of his Father, *Jesus Christ created this earth*. No doubt *others helped him*, but it was Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who, under the direction of his Father, came down and organized matter and made this planet... We are told by our Father in heaven that *man is eternal*; that he has always existed, and that *all life on this earth came from elsewhere*... ADAM AND OTHERS HELPED IN CREATION. It is true that Adam helped to form this earth. He labored with our Savior Jesus Christ. I have a strong view or conviction that there were others also who assisted them. Perhaps Noah and Enoch; and *why not Joseph Smith*, and those who were appointed to be rulers before the earth was formed?” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 74-75.)

Joseph Smith taught, “Now, I ask all who hear me, why the learned men who are preaching salvation, say that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing? The reason is, that

they are unlearned in the things of God, and have not the gift of the Holy Ghost... You ask the learned doctors why they say the world was made out of nothing; and they will answer, 'Doesn't the Bible say He *created* the world?' And they infer, from the word create, that it must have been made out of nothing. Now, the word create came from the word baurau which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship. Hence, we infer that God had materials to organize the world out of chaos—chaotic matter, which is element... The pure principles of element are principles which can never be destroyed; they may be organized and re-organized, but not destroyed. They had no beginning, and can have no end." (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 350-352.)

Cross—LDS people will not wear a cross (*of course there is always the exception to the rule*) nor will the LDS Church display the cross on or in their churches. As with the Bible, they give lip service to the cross but for all practical purposes the importance of the cross is ignored in the theology of Mormonism.

"To bow down before a cross or to look upon it as an emblem to be revered because of the fact that our Savior died upon a cross is repugnant to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints... To many, like the writer, such a custom is repugnant and contrary to the true worship of our Redeemer. Why should we bow down before a cross or use it as a symbol? Because our Savior died on the cross, the wearing of crosses is to most Latter-day Saints in very poor taste and inconsistent to our worship. Of all the ways ever invented for taking life and the execution of individuals, among the most cruel is likely the cross." (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 4, p. 17.)

"For us, the cross is the symbol of the dying Christ, while our message is a declaration of the Living Christ." ('The Symbol of Our Faith', Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, April 2005, p. 3.)

"It was in Gethsemane, on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, that Jesus made his perfect atonement by the shedding of his blood—more so than on the cross... (see D&C 19:16-20.)" (*A Bible! A Bible!*, Robert J. Matthews, p. 282.)

D

Damnation—See *Eternal Damnation*—In LDS theology, not keeping the commandments will dam a person in the afterlife (dam as in a water dam that stops the progress of a river.) Those who fail to keep all of the LDS laws will be stopped in their eternal progression or damned—barred from their full potential to one day become a God.

"DAMNATION—What is damnation? *It is being barred, or denied privileges of progression, because of failure to comply with law.* All who fail to enter into the celestial kingdom are damned, or *stopped in their progression*, but they will enter into some other glory which they are entitled to receive." (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 227.)

Devil—See *Satan*

Doctrine and Covenants—The Doctrine and Covenants are the modern day revelations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“The Doctrine and Covenants is a collection of divine revelations and inspired declarations given for the establishment and regulation of the kingdom of God on the earth in the last days... Most of the revelations in this compilation were received through Joseph Smith, Jun., the first prophet and president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Others were issued through some of his successors in the Presidency (*see headings to Sections 135, 136, and 138, and Official Declarations 1 and 2.*) ...The Doctrine and Covenants is unique because it is not a translation of an ancient document, but is of modern origin and was given of God through His chosen prophets for the restoration of His holy work and the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth in these days.” (Doctrine and Covenants, ‘Explanatory Introduction’, by the LDS Church, 1981.)

E

Elohim—The LDS name of God the Eternal Father, Heavenly Father.

“*Elohim*, as understood and used in the restored Church of Jesus Christ, is the name-title of God the Eternal Father, whose firstborn Son in the spirit is *Jehovah*—the Only Begotten in the flesh, Jesus Christ.” (*Jesus the Christ*, Talmage, p. 38.)

“JEHOVAH THE FIRSTBORN. Among the spirit children of Elohim, the first-born was and is Jehovah, or Jesus Christ, to whom all others are juniors.—Improvement Era, Vol. 19, p.940.” (*Gospel Doctrine*, Joseph F. Smith, 1977, p. 70.)

“That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance with a higher manifestation thereof; and, the offspring from that association of supreme sanctity, celestial Sireship, and pure though mortal maternity, was of right to be called the ‘Son of the Highest.’” (*Jesus the Christ*, Talmage, p. 81.)

Endowment—A sacred covenant performed by worthy Mormons in LDS temples.

“Certain special, spiritual blessings given worthy and faithful saints in the temples are called *endowments*, because in and through them the recipients are endowed with power from on high... So sacred and holy are the administrations performed that in every age when they have been revealed, the LORD has withheld them from the knowledge of the world and disclosed them only to the faithful saints in houses and places dedicated and selected for that purpose... All temple ordinances, except baptism for the dead, pertain to exaltation [*becoming gods*] in the celestial kingdom... These sacred ordinances are administered for the living and on a proxy basis for the dead also.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 226-227.)

Eternal Damnation—*See also Eternal Punishment*—Eternal is not associated with the eternal wrath of God upon sinners, or punishment that has no end. Eternal Damnation can be likened to a water ‘dam’ which prevents the flow of a man’s progression upward to godhood.

Temporary punishment imposed upon those in the LDS Spirit Prison is one form of ‘eternal damnation’.

“This type of eternal damnation ceases when the offender has finally come forth in the resurrection. In this sense, eternal damnation is the type, kind, and quality of torment, punishment, or damnation involved rather than the duration of that damnation. In other words, *eternal* is the name of the kind of punishment involved... Eternal punishment is, thus, the kind of punishment imposed by God who is *Eternal*, and those subject to it may suffer there-from for either a short or a long period. After their buffetings and trials cause them to repent, they are freed from this type of eternal damnation.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 236.)

After the final judgment, all who are assigned to a lesser glory than the celestial glory experience ‘damnation’, this is the second form of ‘eternal damnation’—this is similar to a water dam that stops the progress of a river.

“WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DAMNED. What is damnation? *It is being barred, or denied privileges of progression, because of failure to comply with law.* All who fail to enter into the celestial kingdom are damned, or *stopped in their progression*, but they will enter into some other glory which they are entitled to receive.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 227.)

“*Eternal damnation* is the opposite of eternal life, and all those who do not gain eternal life, or exaltation in the highest heaven within the celestial kingdom, are partakers of eternal damnation. Their *eternal condemnation* is to have limitations imposed upon them so that they cannot progress to the state of godhood.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 234.)

Eternal Families—The promise that ‘families are forever’ for those who are worthy and have had their families sealed to them in an LDS temple.

“*THE FAMILY CAN BE ETERNAL*— ...President Brigham Young explained that our families are not yet ours. The LORD has committed them to us to see how we will treat them. Only if we are faithful will they be given to us forever... *The Eternal Family*—Our family can be together forever. To enjoy this blessing we must be married in the [LDS] temple... When we are married in the temple by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood, we are married for time and eternity. Death cannot separate us. If we obey the commandments of the LORD, our families will be together forever as husband, wife, and children.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 36, ‘The Family Can Be Eternal’.)

Eternal Life—VERY IMPORTANT! Eternal life is works-based and must be earned by obeying all the principles of the LDS gospel. Eternal life is not the same as Immortality. Everyone will be given an immortal/eternal existence in one of the three Mormon heavens. Eternal life is the same thing as LDS Exaltation—Eternal life/Exaltation is progression to godhood in the celestial kingdom.

“IMMORTALITY AND ETERNAL LIFE COMPARED. Immortality and eternal life are two separate things, one distinct from the other. Every man shall receive immortality, whether he be good, bad, or indifferent, for the resurrection from the dead shall come to all. Eternal life is something

in addition. None shall receive eternal life save it be those who keep the commandments of the LORD and are entitled thus to enter in his presence... Very gladly would the Lord give to everyone eternal life, but since that blessing can come only on merit—through the faithful performance of duty—only those who are worthy shall receive it.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 4-5.)

“Eternal life is not a name that has reference only to the unending duration of a future life; immortality is to live forever in the resurrected state, and by the grace of God all men will gain this unending continuance of life. But only those who obey the fullness of the gospel law will inherit eternal life... Thus those who gain eternal life receive exaltation...They are gods.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 237.)

Eternal Marriage—See Celestial Marriage.

Eternal Progression—The eternal world view of Mormonism—all human beings, progress from an eternal ‘intelligence’, to a pre-mortal spirit child of God, to mortality, to immortality, and if they are worthy to eternal life/exaltation—eventual godhood in the Celestial Kingdom.

“We believe in a God who is Himself progressive, who’s majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in eternal advancement—a Being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: ‘As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be.’” (*The Articles of Faith*, Talmage, p. 430.)

“If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? ...Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which heavenly, hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also?” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 373.)

“ETERNAL PROGRESSION A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE GOSPEL— ...God himself is still increasing and progressing in knowledge, power, and dominion, and will do so, worlds without end. It is just so with us.” (*Doctrines from the Prophets*, Alma P. Burton, Wilford Woodruff, p. 155.)

Eternal Punishment—Is not punishment forever, but rather punishment from God whose name is Eternal.

“...For, behold, I am endless, and the punishment which is given from my hand is endless punishment, for Endless is my name. Wherefore—Eternal punishment is God’s punishment. Endless punishment is God’s punishment.” (**D&C 19:10-12.**)

“Eternal punishment is, thus, the kind of punishment imposed by God who is *Eternal*, and those subject to it may suffer there-from for either a short or a long period. After their buffetings and trials cause them to repent, they are freed from this type of eternal damnation.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 236.)

Exaltation— Exaltation is synonymous with eternal life. Exaltation is becoming a God, just like Heavenly Father, through obedience to all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon gospel.

“WHAT IS EXALTATION? Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life that God lives... We can become Gods like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 47, ‘Exaltation’.)

“LEARN HOW TO BE GODS—You have got to learn how to be gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation.” (*Doctrines from the Prophets*, Alma P. Burton, ‘Joseph Smith’, p. 169.)

“REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION—Latter-day Saints are taught that now is the time to fulfill the requirements for exaltation (see **Alma 34:32-34**.) President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel and all its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the LORD has offered; and walk in the light and understanding of the truth; and ‘live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God’ ...In other words, each person must endure in faithfulness, keeping all the Lord’s commandments until the end of his life on earth.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 47, ‘Exaltation’.)

Excommunication—See Apostate

F

Fall, The—The fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was a fall in the right direction.

President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “The Transgression of Adam—Many Christian sects mistakenly teach that Adam’s transgression and fall were contrary to God’s plan for his children... Adam made the wise decision, in fact the only decision that he could make’.

...President Wilford Woodruff said: ‘Adam and Eve came to this world to perform exactly the part that they acted in the Garden of Eden; and I will say, they were ordained of God to do what they did, and it was therefore expected that they would eat of the forbidden fruit in order that man might know both good and evil...’ President Marion G. Romney dispels any doubt as to Adam’s understanding of his action: ‘...I do not look upon Adam’s action as a sin. I think it was a deliberate act of free agency. He chose to do that which had to be done to further the purposes of God.’” (*Search These Commandments*, LDS Church, 1984, p. 238-239.)

“SIN HAD TO COME INTO THE WORLD—Some may regret that our first parents sinned. This is nonsense. If we had been there, and they had not sinned, we should have sinned. I will not blame Adam or Eve. Why? Because it was necessary that sin should enter into the world... no one could ever receive an exaltation without being acquainted with its opposite... The LORD knew they would do this, and he had designed that they should.” (*Doctrines from the Prophets*, Alma Burton, ‘Brigham Young’, p. 6.)

“GREAT BLESSINGS RESULTED FROM THE TRANSGRESSION—Some people believe that Adam and Eve committed a serious sin when they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

However, latter-day scriptures help us understand that their fall was a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all mankind.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Chapter 6, ‘The Fall of Adam and Eve’.)

Feelings—In the LDS Church, truth is determined by ‘feelings’.

D&C 9:8-9, “Behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong.”

“In order to know that the Book of Mormon is true, a person must read, ponder, and pray about it. The honest seeker of truth will soon come to feel that the Book of Mormon is the word of God... In answer to our prayers, the Holy Ghost will teach us truth through our feelings and thoughts.” (*Preach My Gospel*, LDS Church Manual, 2004, p. 38-39.)

First Vision—In 1820 Joseph Smith, as a teenage boy, [*supposedly*] had a spiritual encounter with Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.

The Official LDS Version of the First Vision (1838)—Recorded in the Pearl of Great Price:

“I was at this time in my fifteenth year... It was on the morning of a beautiful, clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty... I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction.

But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.

It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*

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.

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’.

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. When I came to myself again, I found myself lying on my back, looking up into heaven.” (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:7, 14-20.)

“FIRST VISION— ...This transcendent vision [*the ‘First Vision’*] was the beginning of latter-day revelation; it marked the opening of the heavens after the long night of apostate darkness... Through it the creeds of Christendom were shattered to smithereens, and because of it the truth about those Beings whom it is life eternal to know began again to be taught among men. With this vision came the call of that Prophet who, ‘save Jesus only’, was destined to do more ‘for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it’. This vision was the most important event that had taken place in all world history from the day of Christ’s ministry to the glorious hour when it occurred... When Joseph Smith, then but a youth in his 15th year... returned from that sacred spot, he had the sure knowledge—for his eyes had seen and the Holy Ghost... had born record to his soul—that the Father and the Son were two glorified Personages in the express image of each other.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 285-286.)

Forgiveness—Total forgiveness is only granted when all the commandments of the LORD are kept.

“Your Heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements, but that forgiveness is not granted merely for the asking. There must be works—many works—and an all-out, total surrender, with a great humility and ‘a broken heart and a contrite spirit’. It depends upon you whether or not you are forgiven, and when. It could be weeks, it could be years, it could be centuries before that happy day when you have the positive assurance that the LORD has forgiven you.” (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, pp. 324-325.)

“This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection which comes by complying with the formula the LORD gave us. In his Sermon on the Mount he made the commandment to all men: ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect’ (Matt. 5:48.) Being perfect means to triumph over sin. This is a mandate from the LORD. He is just and wise and kind. He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection therefore is an achievable goal.” (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, pp. 208-209.)

Fulness of the Gospel—All the required ordinances and laws of the LDS gospel.

“FULNESS OF THE GOSPEL.—By *fullness of the gospel* is meant all the ordinances and principles that pertain to the exaltation in the celestial kingdom.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 160.)

G

Gethsemane—(see *Atonement*)

God—An exalted man.

“...the [LDS] Church proclaims the eternal truth: ‘As man is, God once was; as God is man may be.’” (*Articles of Faith*, Talmage, pg. 430.)

“*God an Exalted Man*— ...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see... *It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God... he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did.*” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, pp. 345-346.)

“EXTENT OF GOD’S POWER. I do not believe in the doctrine held by some that God is only a Spirit and that he is of such a nature that he fills the immensity of space, and is everywhere present in person, or without person, for I can not conceive it possible that God could be a person, if he filled the immensity of space and was everywhere present at the same time. It is unreasonable, a physical, a theological inconsistency, to imagine that even God the eternal Father would be in two places, as an individual, at the same moment. It is impossible.” (*Gospel Doctrine*, Joseph F. Smith, 1977, pp. 55-56.)

Godhead—Three separate Gods: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. These three individuals are one in purpose but not literally one God, they are not one being—one substance.

Joseph Smith proclaimed, “I will preach on the plurality of Gods... I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 370.)

“Three separate personages—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a *plurality of Gods* exists. To us... these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 576-577.)

Godhood—Exaltation is another LDS term for godhood.

“Man is a god in embryo and has in him the seeds of godhood, and he can, if he is will, rise to great heights. He can lift himself by his own bootstraps as no other creature can do. He was created not to fail and degenerate but to rise to perfection like his Lord Jesus Christ.” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 28.)

“GODHOOD— ...That exaltation which the saints of all ages have so devoutly sought is *godhood* itself. Godhood is to have the character, possess the attributes, and enjoy the perfections which the Father has... They are gods.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 321.)

Gospel, The LDS—A combination of the atonement of Jesus Christ plus: water baptism, laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost, temple endowments, temple marriage, love and worshiping God with all your heart, faith in Jesus, chastity, repentance, tithing, honesty, truthfulness, obeying the Word of Wisdom, baptisms for the dead, keeping the Sabbath day holy, attending church meetings, godly family life, daily family prayers, honoring parents, teaching the LDS gospel to others, studying the scriptures, obeying the Mormon prophets, true charity, and keeping all the Lord’s commandments until the end of your life on earth—(see *Gospel Principles, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 47, ‘Exaltation’.*)

“The gospel is a program of action—of *doing* things.” (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, p. 208.)

“GOSPEL—The *gospel* of Jesus Christ is the plan of salvation. It embraces all the laws, principles, doctrines, rites, ordinances, acts, powers, authorities, and keys necessary to save and exalt men in the highest heaven hereafter... The preparatory gospel ‘is the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments’. ...The *fulness of the gospel* consists in those laws, doctrines, ordinances, powers, and authorities needed to enable men to gain the fulness of salvation.” (*Mormon doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 331-333.)

“THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE IN ORDER THAT ALL MAY UNDERSTAND.” [WHAT???) *How is the LDS gospel simple?*] (*Doctrines from the Prophets*, Alma P. Burton, p. 220.)

Great Apostasy, The—The Total Apostasy of the Christian Church happened shortly after the death of the Lord’s Apostles and lasted until Joseph Smith brought about the ‘restoration of the gospel’ through the establishment of the LDS Church.

“The Great Apostasy... occurred after the Savior established His Church. After the deaths of the Savior and His Apostles, men corrupted the principles of the gospel and made unauthorized changes in Church organization and priesthood ordinances. Because of this widespread wickedness, the Lord withdrew the authority of the priesthood from the earth. During the Great Apostasy, people were without divine direction from living prophets... Parts of the holy scriptures were corrupted or lost... This apostasy lasted until Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to Joseph Smith in 1820 and initiated the restoration of the fulness of the gospel.” (*True to the Faith*, LDS Church, 2004, p. 13.)

“A self-suggesting interpretation of history indicates that there has been a great departure from the way of salvation as laid down by the Savior, a universal apostasy from the Church of Christ. Scarcely had the Church been organized by the Savior, whose name it bears, before the powers of darkness arrayed themselves for conflict with the organized body... Ages of darkness came upon the earth; the power of Satan seemed almost supreme.” (*The Articles of Faith*, Talmage, p. 200-201.)

In Joseph Smith's 'First Vision', God the Father and Jesus Christ supposedly gave him this message, "When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is my Beloved Son. Hear Him!* 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... (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)... 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'. He again forbade me to join with any of them." (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:17-20.)

H

Heaven—Three kingdoms of glory or three levels of heaven: the Celestial heaven—for perfected Mormons only; the Terrestrial heaven—for unworthy yet moral Mormons and moral non-Mormons; the Telestial heaven—for bad Mormons (who are not Sons of Perdition) and wicked non-Mormons.

"The Lord has told us of three degrees of glory. There are three 'heavens', as it is often referred to. We call them the telestial, terrestrial, and the celestial. I cannot for a minute conceive the telestial being hell, either, because it is considered a heaven, a glory. The Prophet Joseph Smith told us that if we could get one little glimpse into the telestial glory even, the glory is so great that we would be tempted to commit suicide to get there." (Patriarch Eldred G. Smith, BYU Speeches of the Year, March 10, 1964, p. 4.)

"In their final judgment, the children of God will be assigned to a kingdom of glory for which their obedience has qualified them. In his letters to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul described these places. He told of a vision in which he was 'caught up to the third heaven' and 'heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter' (2 Cor. 12:2, 4.) Speaking of the resurrection of the dead, he described 'celestial bodies', 'bodies terrestrial' (1 Cor. 15:40), and 'bodies telestial' (JST, 1 Cor. 15:40), each pertaining to a different degree of glory. He likened these different glories to the sun, to the moon, and to different stars (see 1 Cor. 15:41.)" (*Ensign*, Conference Edition, May, 1995, *Apostasy and Restoration*, Dallin H. Oaks, p. 86.)

"KINGDOMS OF GLORY.—Contrary to the views found in the uninspired teachings and creeds of modern Christendom, there are in eternity *kingdoms of glory* to which all resurrected persons (except the sons of perdition) will eventually go. These are named: *celestial*, *terrestrial*, and *telestial*—the glory of each being beyond mortal comprehension... The glory to be received by individuals in the kingdoms of glory hereafter will be in direct proportion to their obedience and diligence in this life, for all men will be judged in accordance with their particular works." (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 420-421.)

Heavenly Parents—Mormonism teaches that all men and women were born as spirit children to Father God and a Mother Goddess in the pre-mortal existence.

“All men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity... —Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, Anthon H. Lund, November, 1909.” (Messages of the First Presidency, Vol. 4, ‘The Origin of Man’, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, James R. Clark, p. 203.)

“MOTHER IN HEAVEN—Implicit in the Christian verity that all men are the spirit children of an *Eternal Father* is the usually unspoken truth that they are also the offspring of an *Eternal Mother*. An exalted and glorified Man of Holiness could not be a Father unless a Woman of like glory, perfection, and holiness was associated with him as a Mother. The begetting of children makes a man a father and a woman a mother whether we are dealing with a man in his mortal or immortal state.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 516.)

Heavenly Father—The first of three separate Gods in the LDS godhead. His name is ‘Elohim’ and he produced all the spirits of mankind by having relations with his wife (*or wives*) in the Celestial kingdom.

“The Father of Our Spirits—One of life’s great questions is ‘Who am I?’ A beloved Primary song helps even little children answer this question. We sing, ‘I am a child of God, and he has sent me here’. ...You are a literal child of God, spiritually begotten in the Premortal life. As His child, you can be assured that you have divine, eternal potential and that He will help you in your sincere efforts to reach that potential.” (True to the Faith, LDS Church, p. 74.)

“‘Father’ as Literal Parent— ...God the Eternal Father, whom we designate by the exalted name-title ‘Elohim’, is the literal Parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and of the spirits of the human race.” (Messages of the First Presidency, Vol. 5, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, p. 26.)

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, basing its belief on divine revelation, ancient and modern, proclaims man to be the direct and lineal offspring of Deity... Man is the child of God, formed in the divine image and endowed with divine attributes, and even as the infant son of an earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable, by experience through ages and aeons, of evolving into a God.” (Messages of the First Presidency, Vol. 4, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ‘The Origin of Man’, p. 206.)

Hell—Hell is a temporary place of punishment. The vast majority who suffer there will eventually end up in the Telestial kingdom (the lowest heaven.)

“That part of the spirit world inhabited by wicked spirits who are awaiting the eventual day of their resurrection is called *hell*... There they suffer the torments of the damned; there they welter in the vengeance of eternal fire; there is found weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth; there the fiery indignation of the wrath of God is poured out upon the wicked... Hell will have an end... After their resurrection, the great majority of those who have suffered in hell will pass into the telestial kingdom; the balance, cursed as sons of perdition, will be consigned to

partake of endless wo with the devil and his angels.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, pp. 349-350.)

Holy Ghost—The third member of the godhead is the Holy Ghost. In LDS theology, the Holy Ghost is not the Holy Spirit (*see ‘Holy Spirit’.*)

“A PERSONAGE OF SPIRIT. The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. *He is a Spirit, in the form of a man...* The Holy Ghost is a personage of Spirit, and has a spirit body only... As a Spirit personage *the Holy Ghost has size and dimensions. He does not fill the immensity of space*, and cannot be everywhere present in person at the same time.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 38.)

“The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son... The Holy Ghost in person may visit men and will visit those who are worthy... but may not tarry with them.” (*Latter-day Prophets Speak*, Daniel H. Ludlow, ‘Joseph F. Smith’, March, 1909, p. 284.)

“Well, let me tell you, the Holy Ghost is a man; he is one of the sons of our Father and our God; and he is that man that stood next to Jesus Christ, just as I stand by brother Brigham.” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, Heber C. Kimball, August 23, 1857, p.179.)

“The Holy Ghost, sometimes called the Comforter, is the third member of the Godhead, and is a personage, distinct from the Holy Spirit... It seems not improbable that He uses the Holy Spirit to perform His labors.” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, John Widtsoe, p. 173.)

Holy Spirit—The Holy Spirit is not the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is not a person, but is a divine essence, a force, or fluid which permeates all that exists. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space. [This is a confusing doctrine that even most LDS people do not comprehend.]

“The chief agent employed by God to communicate his will to the universe is the holy spirit, which must not be confused with the Holy Ghost, the personage who is the third member of the Godhead. The holy spirit permeates all the things of the universe, material and spiritual. By the holy spirit the will of God is radio-transmitted, broadcast as it were. It forms what may be called the great system of communication among the intelligent beings of the universe. The holy spirit vibrates with intelligence; it takes up the word and will of God as given by him or by his personal agents, and transmits the message to the remotest parts of space. By the intelligent operation and infinite extent of the holy spirit, the whole universe is held together and made as one unit.” (*A Rational Theology*, John Widtsoe, p. 72-73.)

“Jesus Christ, a little babe like all the rest of us have been, grew to be a man, was filled with a divine substance or fluid, called the Holy Spirit, by which he comprehended and spake the truth in power and authority; and by which he controlled the elements, and imparted health and life to those who were prepared to partake of the same.” (*The Essential Parley*, P. Pratt, p. 186.)

“The Holy Spirit is the agent, means, or influence by which the will, power, and intelligence of God, and the Godhead... may be transmitted throughout space. The Holy Spirit, vicariously

called the Spirit of God, the Light of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, proceeds from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space.” (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, John A. Widtsoe p. 172.)

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Immortality—Immortality is salvation by grace alone, is associated with being resurrected from the grave, and is a free gift bestowed upon all mankind. Immortality is to live forever, but Immortality is not Eternal life (*see ‘Eternal Life’.*)

“*Unconditional or general salvation*, that which comes by grace alone without obedience to the gospel law, consists in the mere fact of being resurrected. In this sense, salvation is synonymous with immortality; it is the inseparable connection of body and spirit so that the resurrected personage lives forever... *This kind of salvation eventually will come to all mankind, excepting only the sons of perdition.*” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, p. 669.)

“Immortality comes to us all as a free gift by the grace of God alone, without works of righteousness. Eternal life, however, is the reward for obedience to the laws and ordinances of his gospel.” (*A Light unto the World*, David B. Haight, p. 8.)

Inspired Version of the Bible or the Joseph Smith Translation (JST)—The Joseph Smith Inspired Version of the Bible was Joseph Smith’s attempt to ‘fix’ the Bible. Even though the Joseph Smith Translation (JST) is called a ‘translation’, there were no ancient manuscripts used in the editing process, rather Joseph Smith was supposedly ‘inspired’ to make the changes he made. Consider John 1:1-2 in the JST...

(JST)—**John 1:1-2** “In the beginning was the *gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God.* The same was in the beginning with God.”

This is just one of many significant changes made to the Bible by Joseph Smith to see more examples and how we use the JST with LDS people...

 **Go to:**

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to print free PDF download of *We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.* Then watch the TGM Tutorial pertaining to this Visual Aid.

Intelligences—LDS theology states that the base essence of each human being is eternal—as eternal as God himself. The eternal, uncreated essence of each person is called ‘intelligence’ or ‘an intelligence.’ Even amongst LDS scholars the exact understanding of an ‘intelligence’ is a mystery.

“MAN WAS ALSO IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD— ...Some of our writers have endeavored to explain what an intelligence is, but to do so is futile, for we have never been given any insight into this matter beyond what the Lord has fragmentarily revealed. We know, however, that there is something called intelligence which always existed. It is the real eternal part of man,

which was not created nor made. This intelligence combined with the spirit constitutes a spiritual identity or individual.” (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 4, p. 127.)

“*Man’s eternal nature*—Under the uninspired teachings of men and creeds as they apply to man... it was taught that while man’s body was created by God, his origin was purely an earthly one. We believe that before the creation of the body, all men existed as intelligences, these intelligences were not created or made, neither indeed can they be; the intelligent entity in man which we call spirit or soul is a self-existing entity, uncreated and eternal. Thus man is crowned with the dignity which belongs to his divine and eternal nature.” (*Conference Reports*, Hugh B. Brown, April 1969, p. 51.)

J

Jehovah—In the pre-mortal existence, Jesus Christ’s name was Jehovah, He was the firstborn spirit son of Heavenly Father.

“*Elohim*, as understood and used in the restored Church of Jesus Christ, is the name-title of God the Eternal Father, whose firstborn Son in the spirit is *Jehovah*—the Only Begotten in the flesh, Jesus Christ.” (*Jesus the Christ*, Talmage, p. 38.)

"JEHOVAH, THE FIRSTBORN. Among the spirit children of Elohim, the first-born was and is Jehovah, or Jesus Christ, to whom all others are juniors.—*Improvement Era*, Vol. 19, p. 940." (*Gospel Doctrine*, Joseph F. Smith, 1977, p.70.)

“At the great council in heaven, God stood in the midst of His spirit-children and appointed ‘the noble and great ones’ to future positions of leadership after they should become mortals. In that assembled throng there was ‘one like unto God’. This glorious personage volunteered to be the Savior of the world... This individual... was none other than Jehovah of the Old Testament, and when He lived in mortality He was Jesus Christ of the New Testament... The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning... this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.” (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p. 15.)

Jesus Christ—The LDS Church asserts its belief in a different Jesus than the Jesus of Christianity.

A ‘Different Jesus’

“In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say Latter-day Saints ‘do not believe in the traditional Christ’. ‘No, I don’t. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. He together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages.’” (*‘Crown of Gospel is Upon Our Heads’*, Gordon B. Hinckley, *Church News*, June 20, 1998, p. 7.)

“It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (*Ensign*, Conference Edition, May, 1977, ‘The Living Christ’, Bernard P. Brockbank, p. 26.)

The pre-mortal Jesus was a spirit child born to Heavenly Father and a Heavenly Mother

“Jesus was born of heavenly parents in a premortal world—he was the firstborn of our Heavenly Father.” (*Ensign*, Conference Ed., November 1983, ‘Your Sorrow Shall Be Turned to Joy’, Robert D. Hales, p. 67.)

Jesus is our oldest spirit brother in the pre-mortal life

“We worship Elohim, the Father of Jesus Christ... Elohim, the God we worship, is the Father of our spirits; and Jesus Christ, his first Begotten Son in the spirit creation and his Only Begotten Son in the flesh, is our Eldest Brother.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 106.)

Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers born to the same Heavenly Father

“Long before you were born a program was developed by your creators... The principal personalities in this great drama were a Father Elohim, perfect in wisdom, judgment, and person, and two sons, Lucifer and Jehovah [Jesus].” (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p. 32-33.)

The LDS Heavenly Father had a physical relationship with the virgin Mary to conceive Jesus

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father.” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 7.)

The LDS Jesus was married to plural wives and fathered children

“I discover that some of the Eastern papers represent me as a great blasphemer, because I said, in my lecture on Marriage, at our last Conference, that Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and that he begat children... for even the Father himself honored that law by coming down to Mary, without a natural body, and begetting a son; and if Jesus begat children, he only ‘did that which he had seen his Father do.’” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 2, Orson Hyde, March 18, 1855, p. 210.)

“One thing is certain, that there were several holy women that greatly loved Jesus – such as Mary, and Martha her sister, and Mary Magdalene; and Jesus greatly loved them, and associated with them much... If all the acts of Jesus were written, we no doubt should learn that these beloved women were His wives.” (*The Seer*, Orson Pratt, p. 159.)

Jesus had to earn godhood by keeping the LDS gospel

“Jesus became a God and reached His great state of understanding through consistent effort and continuous obedience to all the Gospel truths and universal laws.” (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p. 51.)

Joseph Smith—The founding prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“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.” (**Doctrine and Covenants 135:3.**)

“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 670.)

“Whosoever confesseth that Joseph Smith was sent of God to reveal the holy Gospel to the children of men... 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 Antichrist.” (Journal of Discourses Vol. 8, p. 176, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, 1977, p. 435, Discourses of Brigham Young, 1925, p.666.)

“President Brigham Young stated: ‘Joseph Smith holds the keys of this last dispensation, and is now engaged behind the veil [sic] in the great work of the last days.... No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith.... He holds the keys of that kingdom for the last dispensation—the keys to rule in the spirit-world; and he rules there triumphantly.... He was foreordained in eternity to preside over this last dispensation.’” (*Search These Commandments*, LDS Church, 1984, p. 133.)

“The day will come—and it is not far distant, either—when the name of the Prophet Joseph Smith will be coupled with the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of God, as his representative, as his agent whom he chose, ordained and set apart to lay anew the foundations of the Church of God in the world, which is indeed the Church of Jesus Christ.” (*Gospel Doctrine*, Joseph F. Smith, 1977, p. 134; *Ensign*, December 2003, ‘Joseph Smith: Restorer of Truth’, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 17.)

“Church Stands or Falls With Joseph Smith. Mormonism, as it is called, must *stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith*. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. *There is no middle ground.*” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 188.)

Joseph Smith stated, “I combat the errors of the ages; I meet the violence of mobs; I cope with illegal proceedings from executive authority; I cut the Gordian knot of powers; and I solve mathematical problems of Universities: WITH TRUTH, diamond truth, and God is my ‘right hand man.’” (*Joseph Smith, Times and Seasons* 4:375.)

On May 26, 1844, Joseph Smith preached in a Sunday message, “I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.” (*History of the Church*, LDS Church, Vol. 6, pg. 408-409.)

Joseph Smith said, “God made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel, and He will make me be god to you in His stead... and if you don’t like it, you must lump it.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 363.)

Justification—LDS justification is works based—no one is justified who does not earn it!

“What then is the law of justification? It is simply this: ‘All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations’, in which men must abide to be saved and exalted, must be entered into and performed in righteousness so that the Holy Spirit can justify the candidate for salvation in what has been done... As with all other doctrines of salvation, justification is available because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, but it become operative in the life of an individual only on conditions of personal righteousness.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 408.)

“One of the most pernicious doctrines ever advocated by man, is the doctrine of ‘justification by faith alone’, which has entered into, the hearts of millions since the days of the so-called ‘reformation.’” (*The Restoration of All Things*, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1964, p 192.)

K

Kingdom of God—*See Celestial Kingdom*

Kolob—Associated with Heavenly Father’s planet or dwelling place. Kolob is a notable star or a planet where the governing of our universe is centered.

“The book of Abraham states that God’s physical dominion (throne) is located near a star called Kolob (Abr. 3:2-3.) While it might seem reasonable to suppose that this refers to some distinguishing feature of the universe, all efforts to identify it are speculative and not authoritative. Wherever Kolob is located, its purpose is to ‘govern’ all planets that are of the same ‘order’ as the Earth (Abr. 3:9.)” (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, BYU, 1:82.)

“Joseph taught that there is a great planet named Kolob, nearest the Celestial Throne, and that it revolves once in a thousand years. That is a day with God... It was such a day that Peter had in mind when he wrote: ‘A day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.’” (*Conference Reports*, Orson Whitney, April 1920, p. 123.)

L

Lamanites—*Native American Indians*—According to the Book of Mormon, the Lamanites were Hebrew people who migrated from Jerusalem to the Americas in about 600 BC. Mormonism has made bold claims about the Lamanites stating that they “are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.” Recent DNA studies of Native Americans, however, have proven conclusively that the American Indians are not related in any direct way to the Semitic people groups associated with the land of Israel. Rather, Native Americans are directly connected genetically with the people groups found in northeast Asia/Mongolia.

Who are the Lamanites? “With pride I tell those who come to my office that a Lamanite is a descendant of one Lehi who left Jerusalem six hundred years before Christ and with his family crossed the mighty deep and landed in America. And Lehi and his family became the ancestors of all of the Indian and Mestizo tribes in North and South and Central America and in the islands of the sea, for in the middle of their history there were those who left America in ships of their making and went to the islands of the sea... The term Lamanite includes all Indians and Indian mixtures, such as the Polynesians, the Guatemalans, the Peruvians, as well as the Sioux, the Apache, the Mohawk, the Navajo, and others. It is a large group of great people.” (‘Of Royal Blood’, Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, July 1971, p. 7.)

Gordon B. Hinckley said to the native people of Mexico City, “Bless Thy saints in this great land and those from other lands who will use this temple. Most have in their veins the blood of Father Lehi. Thou hast kept Thine ancient promise. Many thousands ‘that walked in darkness have seen a great light.’” (Dedicatory prayer of the Mexico City temple, Gordon B. Hinckley, December, 1983; *Church News*, 11 Dec. 1983: 4.)

Lucifer—See Satan

M

Mankind—Every person on earth is a literal spirit child of the LDS Heavenly Father and a heavenly mother. Therefore, mankind is the literal offspring of Deity, and has the inherent potential to become Gods. The basic essence of man—his intelligence, however, was not created by God, the LDS Church teaches—man is a self-existing being.

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, basing its belief on divine revelation, ancient and modern, proclaims man to be the direct and lineal offspring of Deity. God himself is an exalted man, perfected, enthroned, and supreme... *Men Are Gods In Embryo*—‘Man is the child of God, formed in the divine image and endowed with divine attributes, and even as the infant son of our earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable, by experience through ages of aeons, of evolving into a god.’” (*The First Presidency—Joseph F. Smith*, John R. Winder, Anthon H. Lund; *Doctrines from the Prophets*, Alma P. Burton, p. 2; & *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, by the LDS Church, p. 130.)

“*Man Is a Self-Existing Being*—Perhaps the most significant truth about man in the context of his pre-earth existence is that he was not created nor made, that is, did not begin, at his birth into mortality... He has always existed... Birth is not man’s beginning. Existence as conscious identities in a per-earth life... was not man’s beginning. Indeed man has no beginning... ‘The spirit of man is not a created being; it existed from eternity, and will exist to eternity’. This truth about man profoundly affects our concept of man. His basic identity was not created, even by God. Rather, he exists upon the same self-existent principles as does God. Man is a product of the same system of things as is God. God and man are of the same race.” (*God and Man*, Oscar W. McConkie Jr., LDS Church, p. 26-29.)

Marriage—See Celestial Marriage.

Michael, the Archangel—See Adam.

Millennium, The—During the Millennium, ‘Works for the Dead’ will be done by LDS people for every person who has ever lived on this earth—this is the primary purpose for the Millennium.

“SALVATION FOR DEAD IN LATTER-DAYS. The work of saving the dead has practically been reserved for the dispensation of the fulness of times, when the Lord shall restore all things. It is, therefore, the duty of the Latter-day Saints to see that it is accomplished. We cannot do it all at once, but will have the 1,000 years of the millennium to do it in. In that time the work must be done in behalf of the dead of the previous 6,000 years, for all who need it. Temples will be built for this purpose, and the labor in them will occupy most of the time of the saints.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 166.)

“*WHAT WILL BE DONE DURING THE MILLENNIUM?* There will be two great works for members of the Church during the Millennium—temple work and missionary work. Some ordinances are necessary for exaltation. These include baptism, the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and such temple ordinances as the endowment, temple marriage, and the sealing together of family units. Many people have died without receiving these ordinances. People on the earth must perform these ordinances for them. This work is now being done in the temples of the Lord. Because there is too much work to finish before the Millennium begins, it will be completed during that time. Resurrected beings will help us correct the mistakes we have made in doing research concerning our dead ancestors. They will also help us find the information we need to complete our records. The other great work during the millennium will be missionary work. The gospel will be taught with great power to all people.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, ch. 44, ‘The Millennium’.)

Murder—According to Mormonism, murder or the shedding of innocent blood, is a sin that can never be totally forgiven.

“And now, behold, I speak unto the church. Thou shalt not kill; and he that kills shall not have forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come.” (**Doctrine and Covenants 42:18.**)

“*The Murderer*—John wrote that ‘no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him’. The murderer denies himself salvation in the celestial kingdom, and in this sense he cannot be forgiven for his crime... Another scriptural character responsible for murder—and this in conjunction with adultery—was the great King David. For his dreadful crime, all his life afterward he sought forgiveness. Some of the Psalms portray the anguish of his soul, yet David is still paying for his sin.” (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, p.127-128.)

“MURDERERS— ...Murderers are forgiven eventually but only in the sense that all sins are forgiven except the sin against the Holy Ghost; they are not forgiven in the sense that celestial salvation is made available to them. After they have paid the full penalty for their crime, they shall go on to a telestial inheritance.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 520.)

N

Negroes—*See Blacks*

New Jerusalem, The—The LDS Church believes Jesus Christ will rule the millennial kingdom from Independence, Missouri—which is ‘Zion’, where the New Jerusalem will be built.

“For the early Saints, establishing Zion... meant building the city of Zion, or New Jerusalem. In July 1831, the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that the city of Zion should be built in Missouri, with Independence as the center place (**D&C 57:1-3.**)” (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 267.*)

“It will be in America – at Jackson County Missouri – that the New Jerusalem will be built; and from there will the Lord govern the world during the Millennium.” (*Joshua: Man of Faith, Mark E. Peterson, p. 76*)

O

Outer Darkness—Eternal punishment that lasts forever is only for those deemed worthy of outer darkness—only ‘sons of perdition’ will be sent to outer darkness with Satan and his fallen angels. The only people who can become sons of perdition are Mormons who have left Mormonism—all other sinners, no matter how bad they may have been, will all eventually receive a degree of glory in the telestial kingdom.

“OUTERDARKNESS—These are they who had testimonies of Jesus through the Holy Ghost and had known the power of the Lord, but allowed Satan to overcome them. They denied the truth and defied the power of the Lord. It would have been better for them if they had never been born. There is no forgiveness for them. They denied the Holy Spirit after having received it. They will not have a kingdom of glory. They will live in eternal darkness, torment, and misery with Satan and his angels forever and ever.” (*Gospel Principles, LDS Church, 1979/1990, ch. 46, ‘The Last Judgment’.*)

“I think I am safe in saying that no man can become a Son of Perdition until he has known the light. Those who have never received the light are not to become Sons of Perdition. They will be punished if they rebel against God. They will have to pay the price of their sinning, but it is only those who have the light through the priesthood and through the power of God and through their membership in the Church who will be banished forever from his influence into outer darkness to dwell with the devil and his angels. That is a punishment that will not come to those who have never known the truth. Bad as they may suffer, and awful as their punishment by be, they are not among that group which is to suffer the eternal death and banishment from all influence concerning the power of God.” (*Conference Report, Joseph Fielding Smith, “Seek Ye Earnestly...”*, October, 1958, p. 21.)

P

Perfection—The LDS gospel requires the abandonment of sin before forgiveness can be granted. If repentance is genuine, the person will abandon the sin and never commit that sin again. This means that little by little, LDS people are supposed to be ‘perfecting’ themselves. The LDS Church teaches its people that perfection is an achievable goal.

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.” (**Moroni 10:32.**)

Repentant Life Seeks Perfection—“One could multiply references almost indefinitely but enough has been said to establish the point that the repentant life, the life which constantly reaches for perfection, must rely on works as well as on faith. The gospel is a program of action—of *doing* things... Immortality has been accomplished by the Savior’s sacrifice. Eternal life hangs in the balance awaiting the works of men.

This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection which comes by complying with the formula the Lord gave us. In his Sermon on the Mount he made the command to all men: ‘*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*’. (*Matt. 5:48*) Being perfect means to triumph over sin. This is a mandate from the Lord. He is just and wise and kind. He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection therefore is an achievable goal... Perfection really comes through overcoming... Christ became perfect through overcoming. Only as we overcome shall we become perfect and move toward godhood. As I have indicated previously, the time to do this is now, in mortality.” (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, p. 208-210.)

Plural Marriage/Polygamy—The early prophets of Mormonism are responsible for starting the practice of polygamy in the Americas. The mainstream Mormon Church does not condone polygamy at this present time. Mormon splinter groups still involved in this practice are condemned by the LDS Church. The LDS Church does, however, still believe in the eternal principle of plural marriage and does believe polygamy will be practiced by all worthy LDS men in the celestial kingdom.

“The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy.” (*Journal of Discourses*, Brigham Young, August 19, 1866, 11:269.)

“We have now clearly shown that God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity, by whom He begat our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus His First Born, and another being upon the earth by whom He begat the tabernacle of Jesus, as His Only Begotten in this world. We have also proved most clearly that the Son followed the example of his Father, and became the great Bride Groom to whom king’s daughters and many honorable Wives were to be married. We have also proved that both God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ inherit

their wives in eternity as well as in time; and that God the Father has already begotten many thousand millions of sons and daughters and sent them into this world to take tabernacles; and that God the Son has the promise that 'of the increase of his government there shall be no end;' it being expressly declared that the children of one of His Queens should be made Princes in all the earth." (*The Seer*, Orson Pratt, p. 172.)

"PLURAL MARRIAGE ...In the early days of this dispensation, as part of the promised restitution of all things, the Lord revealed the principle of *plural marriage* to the Prophet [*Joseph Smith*]. Later the Prophet and leading brethren were commanded to enter into the practice, which they did in all virtue and purity of heart despite the consequent animosity and prejudices of worldly people. After Brigham Young led the saints to the Salt Lake Valley, plural marriage was openly taught and practiced until the year 1890. At that time conditions were such that the Lord *by revelation* withdrew the command to continue the practice, and President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto directing that it cease. Obviously the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the millennium. Plural marriage is not essential to salvation or exaltation." (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, 1966, p. 578.)

Premortal Life or Preexistence—The doctrine that all mankind, prior to our earthly existence, were spirit children of heavenly parents.

"Premortal Life—Before you were born on the earth, you lived in the presence of your Heavenly Father as one of His spirit children. In this premortal existence, you attended a council with Heavenly Father's other spirit children. At that council, Heavenly Father presented His great plan of happiness. In harmony with the plan of happiness, the premortal Jesus Christ, the Firstborn Son of the Father in the spirit, covenanted to be the Savior. Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth... Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan and 'sought to destroy the agency of man'. He became Satan." (*True to the Faith*, LDS Church, 2004, pp. 115-116.)

"*WE ARE CHILDREN OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER*—God is not only our ruler and our creator; he is also our Heavenly Father. 'All men and women are... literally the sons and daughters of Deity... Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents, and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, prior to coming upon the earth in a temporal [physical] body'. Every person who was ever born on earth was our spirit brother or sister in heaven. The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ. He is thus our elder brother." (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 2, 'Our Heavenly Family'.)

Priesthood—Of ultimate importance in the LDS Church is the authority of the LDS Priesthoods. The restoration of 'Priesthood Authority' was one of the most important doctrines of the 'Restored LDS Gospel of Jesus Christ'. Mormonism teaches that only worthy men within the LDS Church who hold the Aaronic and/or Melchizedek priesthoods have any authority from God to administrate His Church on earth. Modern day Christendom lost that authority shortly after the death of the Lord's Apostles and has been in a state of 'Total Apostasy' since that time.

“WHAT IS THE PRIESTHOOD? Our Heavenly Father has great power. This power is called the priesthood. By this priesthood power the heavens and the earth were created. By this power, the universe is kept in perfect order. Our Heavenly Father shares his priesthood power with his children on the earth. It is the power and authority by which those who are ordained to this power act in his name to do his work... We must have priesthood authority to act in the name of God to perform the sacred ordinances of the gospel... If a man does not have the priesthood, even though he may be sincere, the Lord will not recognize ordinances performed by him... Men need the priesthood to preside in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 13, ‘The Priesthood’.)

“THE GREAT APOSTASY AND THE REFORMATION— ...The glorious Gospel truths proclaimed by the Savior were corrupted by pagan teachings and practices... These facts became apparent to a number of good men, such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale the Wesley brothers, and others, who inaugurated what is known as the Reformation. Through sincere and diligent efforts they attempted to restore the Gospel teachings and practices... But none of them held the holy Priesthood of God, which was absolutely essential if they were officially to establish the true Church of Jesus Christ.” (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p. 91.)

“Priesthood—The priesthood is the eternal power and authority of God... Male members of the Church may begin their priesthood service when they reach the age of 12. They begin by holding the Aaronic Priesthood, and they later may qualify to have the Melchizedek Priesthood conferred on them.” (*True to the Faith*, LDS Church, 2004, p. 124.)

R

Redemption—The LDS doctrine of redemption falls into two categories: unconditional and conditional. Unconditional redemption is forced upon all and is simply resurrection from the grave, the free gift of immortality. Unconditional redemption grants virtually all men a place in one of the three LDS heavens. Conditional redemption is earned by keeping all the requirements of the Mormon Gospel and only the ‘righteous’ will earn conditional redemption and enter the celestial kingdom.

“REDEMPTION: CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL. *‘Conditional redemption* is also universal in its nature; it is offered to all but not received by all; it is a universal gift, though not universally accepted; its benefits can be obtained only through faith, repentance, baptism, the laying on of hands, and obedience to all other requirements of the gospel. *‘Unconditional redemption* is a gift forced upon mankind which they cannot reject... Not so with conditional redemption; it can be received or rejected according to the will of the creature. ‘Redemption from the original sin is without faith or works; redemption from our own sins is given through faith and works. *Both are the gifts of free grace*; but while one is a gift *forced* upon us unconditionally, the other is a gift merely *offered* to us conditionally. The redemption of the one is *compulsory*; the reception of the other is *voluntary*.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 10.)

Repentance—Forgiveness of sins is only granted when true repentance is accomplished. True repentance is the total abandonment of sin while in this life.

“Abandonment of Sin—By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them. Doctrine & Covenants 58:43—THERE IS ONE CRUCIAL TEST OF REPENTANCE. This is abandonment of the sin.” (Miracle of Forgiveness, Kimball, p. 163.)

Forgiveness Cancelled on Reversion to Sin—Old sins return, says the Lord in his modern revelations. Many people either do not know this or they conveniently forget it. ‘Go your ways and sin no more’, the Lord warned. And again, ‘...Unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God’. (D&C 82:7.) ...Those who feel that they can sin and be forgiven and then return to sin and be forgiven again and again must straighten out their thinking. Each previously forgiven sin is added to the new one and the whole gets to be heavy load. Thus when a man has made up his mind to change his life, there must be no turning back.” (Miracle of Forgiveness, Kimball, pp. 169-170.)

“Alma 13:11-12 ...indicates an attitude which is basic to the sanctification we should all be seeking, and thus to the repentance which merits forgiveness. It is that the former transgressor must have reached a ‘point of no return’ to sin wherein there is not merely a renunciation but also a deep abhorrence of the sin—where the sin becomes most distasteful to him and where the desire or urge to sin is cleared out of the life.” (Miracle of Forgiveness, Kimball, p. 354-355.)

“And until there is real repentance there can never be forgiveness... Discontinuance of sin must be permanent... Incomplete repentance never brought complete forgiveness... Forgiveness is an absolute requirement in attaining eternal life.” (Miracle of Forgiveness, Kimball, pp. 154, 176, 212, 261.)

Restoration, The—The LDS Church teaches the true gospel of Jesus Christ was utterly corrupted and lost during the period of time known as the ‘Great Apostasy’ (see Great Apostasy, The.) Joseph Smith, is known to LDS people as ‘The Prophet of the Restoration’ of the true gospel and the true Church of Jesus Christ. LDS theology says it was through Joseph Smith that Priesthood Authority and the LDS Temple Ordinances were restored to the earth.

“After the Savior ascended to heaven, men changed the ordinances and doctrines that he and his apostles had established. Because of apostasy... The true Church of Jesus Christ was no longer on the earth... [and] the gospel Jesus taught was no longer on the earth... The time had arrived for the true Church of Jesus Christ to be restored to the earth... Through the Restoration the priesthood was returned to the earth... OTHER IMPORTANT TRUTHS WERE RESTORED... These include the following: 1. Our Heavenly Father is a real person with a tangible body of flesh and bones. 2. We existed in premortal life as spirit children of God. 3. The priesthood is necessary to administer the ordinances of the gospel... 7. Family relationships can be eternal, through the sealing power of the priesthood. 8. The temple endowment and sealings are available for both the living and the dead.” (Gospel Principles, by the LDS Church, 1979/1990, chapter 17, ‘The Church of Jesus Christ Today – The Lord Promised to Restore His True Church’.)

Resurrection—See Immortality

S

Salvation—LDS Salvation is a two-fold plan. Unconditional or General Salvation is what Jesus Christ earned for all mankind when he atoned for the original sin of Adam—this is a salvation from the grave through the resurrection of the body which grants Immortality to all men. Conditional or Individual Salvation must be earned by perfectly keeping all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon gospel—those who earn this salvation will have eternal life which is termed exaltation. Those who have earned exaltation will become Gods.

“KINDS OF SALVATION—SALVATION: CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL. Christ’s sacrifice and death did two things for us: it brought unto us *unconditional salvation* and *conditional salvation*. Sometimes we refer to these as *general salvation* and *individual salvation*.”
(*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 9.)

“SALVATION. *Unconditional or general salvation*, that which comes by grace alone without obedience to gospel law, consists in the mere fact of being resurrected... *This kind of salvation eventually will come to all mankind, excepting only the sons of perdition*... But this is not the salvation of righteousness, the salvation which the saints seek. Those who gain only this general or unconditional salvation will still be judged according to their works and receive their places in a terrestrial or a telestial kingdom. They will, therefore, be damned; their eternal progression will be cut short... *Conditional or individual salvation*, that which comes by grace coupled with gospel obedience, consists in receiving an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God. This kind of salvation follows faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the Holy Ghost, and continued righteousness to the end of one’s mortal probation... *Salvation* in its true and full meaning is synonymous with *exaltation* or *eternal life*... This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods... If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, p. 669-670.)

“Through the atonement of Christ all mankind *may* be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. Salvation is twofold: *General*—that which comes to all men irrespective of a belief (in this life) in Christ—and, *Individual*—that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.”
(*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 133-134.)

Salvation by Grace Alone—All of mankind will partake of salvation by grace alone, or universal salvation, since all will be given the free gift of resurrection. The Biblical concept of salvation by grace alone through faith alone (apart from works) is scorned by the LDS Church.

“*Faith and Works*— ...One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation... Of course we need to understand terms. If by the word ‘salvation’ is meant the mere salvation or redemption from the grave, the ‘grace of God’ is sufficient. But if the term ‘salvation’ means returning to the presence of God... for this one certainly must have the ‘grace of God’, ...plus personal purity, overcoming of evil, and the good ‘works’ made so

important in the exhortations of the Savior and his prophets and apostles.” (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, Kimball, p. 206-208.)

“Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend, at least, to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. His blood, without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean.” (‘What the Mormons Think of Christ’, LDS Church Tract, p. 31.)

“SALVATION BY GRACE— ...One of the untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation (meaning in the kingdom of God) by grace alone and without obedience. This soul-destroying doctrine has the obvious effect of lessening the determination of an individual to conform to all the laws and ordinances of the gospel, such conformity being essential...” (*Mormon Doctrine*, McConkie, p. 670-671.)

Salvation for the Dead—See *Baptism for the Dead, and Endowments*.

Satan—Satan or the Devil, known as Lucifer in the pre-mortal existence was a spirit child of God the Father, a spirit brother of Jesus Christ and a spirit brother of all mankind.

“Satan, also called the... devil, is the enemy of righteousness and those who seek to follow God. He is a spirit son of God who was once an angel... But in the premortal Council in Heaven, Lucifer, as Satan was then called, rebelled against Heavenly Father and the plan of salvation. In this rebellion against God, Satan ‘sought to destroy the agency of man’. ...Satan persuaded ‘a third part of the hosts of heaven’ to turn away from the Father.” (*True to the Faith*, LDS Church, 2004, p. 154.)

“We needed a Savior to pay for our sins and to teach us how to return to our Heavenly Father. Our Father said, ‘Whom shall I send?’ Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, ‘Here am I, send me’...Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying: ‘Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind’...After hearing both sons speak, our Heavenly Father said, ‘I will send the first’. Jesus Christ was chosen and ordained to be our savior... Because our Heavenly Father chose Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Satan became angry and rebelled. There was war in heaven. Satan and his followers fought against Jesus and his followers. In this great rebellion... One third of the spirits in heaven followed Satan. They were cast down from heaven. Satan and those who followed him were punished. They were denied the right to receive mortal bodies.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 3, ‘Jesus Christ our Chosen Leader and Savior’.)

Scriptures, LDS—The Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price.

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accepts four books as scripture: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. These books are called the standard works of the Church. The words of our living prophets are also accepted as scripture.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 10, ‘Scriptures’.)

Sons of Perdition—The only people who are in danger of eternal punishment are former Mormons— LDS people who knew and accepted the fulness of the LDS gospel and then rejected it in this life. These apostate Mormons, unless they repent and come back to the Church, will experience the second death and go to outer darkness with Satan and his fallen angels.

“What Is the Meaning of Second Death? ...It is very clear in the Doctrine and Covenants Section 76:30-37, that the only persons who will be completely overcome by this dreadful fate are the sons of perdition who go with the devil and his angels into ‘outer darkness.’” (Answers to Gospel Questions, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 5, p. 107.)

“Men cannot be sons of perdition until they do receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, until they themselves hold part of God’s authority in the Holy Priesthood, and that having come to the light and to the possession of this power they then do violence to it by becoming traitors to God, and by denying the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by altogether turning away from the Gospel.” (*Collected Discourses*, B.H. Roberts, Vol. 5, p. 139.)

[NOTE: In the above quote, ‘the Gospel of Jesus Christ’ is the LDS gospel, ‘the Holy Priesthood’ is the LDS Priesthood, and ‘the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ’ is the LDS atonement—those who become ‘traitors to God’ are LDS people who walk away from Mormonism.]

Spirit World—The place where all the spirits of this earth go after death. In the spirit world, Mormons preach the gospel to all that never joined the LDS Church while on the earth. Through proxy works for the dead, done in Mormon temples (baptisms and temple works for the dead) and the missionary efforts of deceased Mormons in the afterlife, it is believed that many will accept the teachings of the Mormon Church in the spirit world and eventually work their way to exaltation/godhood.

“Eventually our mortal bodies will die, and our spirits will go to the spirit world. The spirit world is a place of waiting, working, learning, and resting from care and sorrow. Here, our spirits will live until we are ready for our resurrection. Then our mortal bodies will once more unite with our spirits, and we will receive the degree of glory which we have earned... *ARE THERE DIVISIONS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD?* The prophet Alma in the Book of Mormon teaches about two divisions or states in the spirit world... —(see **Alma 40:12-14**)—The spirits are classified according to the purity of their lives and their obedience to the will of the Lord while on earth. The righteous and the wicked are separated, but the spirits may progress from one level to another as they learn gospel principles and live in accordance with them.” (*Gospel Principles*, LDS Church, 1979/1990, Ch. 45, ‘The Post-Earthly Spirit World’.)

T

Three Degrees of Glory—*See Heaven*

Telestial kingdom—*See Heaven*

Terrestrial Kingdom—*See Heaven*

Trinity—*See Godhead*—Mormonism denies the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, yet believes in a ‘Trinity’ composed of three separate Gods: God the Father, God the Son; and God the Holy Ghost. Mormons may use the term ‘Trinity’ according to their own definition.

“The Godhead: The Trinity—Three personages composing the great presiding council of the universe have revealed themselves to man: (1) God the Eternal Father; (2) His Son, Jesus Christ; and (3) the Holy Ghost. That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man.” (Articles of Faith, James E. Talmage, p. 39.)

V

Virgin Birth—Mormonism only gives lip service to the virgin birth. The Mormon doctrine of a Godhead with three separate Gods forces them to reject the Holy Ghost as the agency through which Christ’s miraculous conception occurred. If Christ was conceived by the Holy Ghost, he would have to be called the Son of the Holy Ghost, not the Son of the Father. Instead, they teach that God the Father, who has a physical body of flesh and bones, had a relationship with Mary and she conceived in the same natural way that all mothers conceive on this earth. This doctrine destroys the Biblical truth that Christ was virgin born.

“A MODERN PROPHET’S ANSWER—...Now, we are told in scriptures that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God in the flesh. Well, now for the benefit of the older ones, how are children begotten? I answer just as Jesus Christ was begotten of his father... Now, my little friends, I will repeat again in words as simple as I can, and you talk to your parents about it, that God, the Eternal Father, is literally the father of Jesus Christ... Jesus is the only person who had our Heavenly Father as the father of his body.” (Family Home Evening Manual, Joseph F. Smith, 1972, pp. 125-126.)

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father.” (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, Reed A. Benson, p. 7.)

“Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.” (Mormon Doctrine, McConkie, 1966, p. 547.)

W

Word of Wisdom—A rather ambiguous list of health laws set forth by the LDS Church. As a part of these dietary laws, LDS people are forbidden to drink any kind of black tea or coffee.

“The Word of Wisdom is for our physical and spiritual benefit.—The Word of Wisdom is a law of health revealed by the Lord for the physical and spiritual benefit of His children. On February 27, 1833, as recorded in section [89 of the Doctrine and Covenants](#), the Lord revealed which foods are good for us to eat and which substances are not good for the human body. He also promised health, protection, knowledge, and wisdom to those who obey the Word of Wisdom” (LDS.org, Topics, ‘Word of Wisdom’.)

“Many of our good people have become so weak that, according to the ‘Word of Wisdom’, they are not worthy to be called Saints... But says one, ‘If I am offered a cup of tea or a cup of coffee I cannot refuse it’. Then, according to the word of the Lord, you are too weak to be a Latter-day Saint.” (*Official Conference Report*, Elder Joseph F. Smith, April 1880, p. 36.)

“SALVATION AND A CUP OF TEA. You cannot neglect little things. ‘Oh, a cup of tea is such a little thing. It is so little; surely it doesn’t amount to much; surely the Lord will forgive me if I drink a cup of tea’. Yes, he will forgive you, because he is going to forgive every man who repents; but, my brethren, if you drink coffee or tea, or take tobacco, are you letting a cup of tea or a little tobacco stand in the road and bar you from the celestial kingdom of God, where you might otherwise have received a fulness of glory?” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 16)?

Z

Zion—*See New Jerusalem*