

Some Contradictions of Mormonism

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Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

It is sad to contemplate the fact that not all who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ are actually following Him. The above passage points to the fact that one may even be deceiving self into believing they are right, when they are in reality following a false way. One such organization in which we find such people is Mormonism. Recently I heard that their membership now exceeded six million! The group itself was formed in 1836 by Joseph Smith, Jr. It is based on his claims to have received golden plates from an angel of God, which plates it is claimed he translated by the gift and power of God. This book is known as The Book of Mormon. He also is supposed to have received other revelations from God which are contained in their Doctrine and Covenants and The Pearl of Great Price. The purpose of this work is to examine these works to see if they are in fact what they claim to be - of divine origin. In this examination we will follow the premise that truth harmonizes with truth; that is, if these words are of divine origin, they should all agree with one another and the Bible.

I. Joseph Smith's Own Story

In the Pearl of Great Price, section 2 is the record of his own story. Let's look to it and note some of the problems with it harmonizing with other of their works and the Bible.

1. First, one will have to decide which of four versions of the story they will accept. Many think that the version in the "Pearl" is the only one, yet there are four which vary in great ways. Differences include such things as:
 - (1) his age at the time of his first vision -- variously given as from 14-16 years;
 - (2) who appeared to him at that time -- Christ alone? Christ and the Father? Angels alone?;
 - (3) his reason for being in the woods inquiring of God -- to know which sect was right? Because he knew through a study of the Scripture that all sects were wrong? To inquire if there really was a God?

Since Joseph was supposedly guided by God in his writings, isn't it strange that there are these varied versions, each supported at different times by Joseph himself?

2. Secondly, his story contradicts the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants.
 - (1) In verses 10-20 Joseph supposedly went into the woods to inquire of God which sect was right. In the Bible, God states that the Word He has delivered unto us is sufficient for such a cause (2 Tim. 3:16,17) and in fact gives an example of just such a use in Acts 17:11 and calls such an action "noble".
 - (2) In verse 11 he gives his reason for this approach to God as being his reading of James 1:5 where we are told to ask for "wisdom". It is thus apparent that Joseph did not even know that difference between "wisdom" and "knowledge". Wisdom is the use of knowledge. God has never told us to pray for knowledge, but has told us to study His word for such (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - (3) In verse 17 Joseph says he saw the Father and the Son. But in Doctrine and Covenants 84:21-22 we find a "revelation" that seeing such would cause one to die unless he had the "authority of the priesthood" (which Joseph had not yet received).
 - (4) In verse 19 God supposedly told Joseph not to join any of the sects, yet historical records show that in the year 1828 Joseph joined the Methodist church.
 - (5) In verse 34 we are told that the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was to be translated had "the fullness of the everlasting gospel...contained in it." In view of such there are several perplexing questions. If the book of Mormon is a translation of these plates, thus containing the "fullness of the gospel" . . .
 - A. Where then in the Book of Mormon do we find the plan for their church? The organization of the church (especially as found in Mormonism)? Plans for the temple or temple ordinances? Baptism for the dead? ETC. ETC...
 - B. When several of the pages of Joseph's "translation" were stolen, and his God told him not to retranslate them, doesn't

this then mean "precious parts" of the "fullness of the gospel" are missing?

- C. Why do they say the Book of Mormon PLUS the Bible makes the fullness of the gospel? (ie. Their argument that the Bible and the Book of Mormon are the two sticks of Ezekiel 37). If the claims of Joseph Smith 2:34 are true, the Bible is unneeded. Also, another contradiction is found in that the Bible makes (and can uphold) the claim of completion (cf. Jude 3; etc).
- D. Why is the Doctrine and Covenants or Pearl of Great Price even needed? Was God wrong in claiming that the Book of Mormon would contain the "fullness of the gospel", thus had to give other works?

- (6) In verse 64 we find the supposed account wherein Professor Anthon examined a portion of the translation, along with a copy of the characters from the plates and certified the trueness of the characters and the correctness of the translation. Such is in direct contradiction to Mormon 9:34 and Ether 3:22-28 in which we are told that the language of the plates was such that "none other people knoweth our language" thus God had to "prepare means for the interpretation thereof". If no one else knew the language, how could anyone attest to the accuracy of such a translation?!

It is plain from these (and several other contradictions) that the supposed account found in Joseph Smith 2 is a fraud. It contradicts itself, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, logic, and most of all, the holy Word of God.

II. The Articles of Faith

These 13 articles, penned by Joseph Smith, claim to set forth briefly the basics of Mormon belief. Let's notice briefly 3 contradictions in this work, again showing it (as are all the works of Mormonism) to be the feeble work of man.

- 1. In verse 6 we are told, "We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church . . ." Though much could be said about such, suffice it to say such is a lie unless they can produce the New Testament pattern for their Presidency, priesthoods, and other oddities.

2. In verse 7 we find the statement they believe in the miraculous powers of the New Testament era. One would wonder how then that even their President (who is to be a "seer, a revelator, a translator, and a prophet" - D&C 107:91-92) was recently deceived by Mark Hoffman and his false letters! Where were these "powers"?
3. In verse 12 they state "we believe in being subject to" the governmental powers. Yet history records that they were run out of Missouri because of rebellion against the government.

Again, we are faced with an absurd work which contradicts reason, the Bible, and itself.

III. The Book of Mormon vs The Bible

The claim is often made by the Mormons that the Bible and the Book of Mormon are completely compatible, that is that there are no contradictions. Let us see if such is true.

1. Priests of Aaron or Joseph?
 - (1) The Bible affirms that only those of Aaron's descent were to be priests (Numbers 3:10).
 - (2) The Book of Mormon states in 2 Nephi 5:26, "I, Nephi, did consecrate Jacob and Joseph, that they should be priests . . ." These supposed men were descendants of Lehi (1 Nephi 18:7) who was of the tribe of Joseph (1 Nephi 6:14). It seems that Mormonism also "walks in the ways of Jereboam" (cf. 1 Kings 12:31).
2. Complete or Not?
 - (1) The Bible claims to be the complete (Jude 3) and all sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:3) Word of God.
 - (2) The Book of Mormon ridicules one who would make such a claim (2 Nephi 29:3) and denies that it contains all of God's written revelation to man (2 Nephi 29:6,10). It even unbelievably attributes the origin of the Bible to the Jews (2 Nephi 29:6)!
3. Beginning in Jerusalem or Not?

- (1) The Bible in Luke 24:46-47 states very clearly that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Such was fulfilled in Acts 2.
 - (2) The Book of Mormon has this occurring in 2 Nephi 31:11-17 which claims to be between B.C. 559 and 545 and thousands of miles away from Jerusalem!
4. "Will Build" or "Already There"!
- (1) The Bible records that the Lord plainly affirmed while upon this earth, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18), a prophecy fulfilled in Acts 2. It is clear the Lord did not consider the church then in existence.
 - (2) The Book of Mormon states, "they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward.." (Mosiah 18:17). This supposedly occurred about B.C. 147!
5. Jerusalem or Bethlehem?
- (1) The Bible tells us that Jesus was to be and was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1).
 - (2) The Book of Mormon says "he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem" (Alma 7:10). Lest they say that Jerusalem is an area and not a city, in 1 Nephi 1:4 their own works call it a city.
6. Father or No Father?
- (1) The Bible affirms Melchisedec was "without father, without mother, without descent (genealogy - ASV)" (Hebrews 7:1-3).
 - (2) The Book of Mormon in Alma 13:18 states "he [Melchisedec - JHW] did reign under his father".
7. First in Antioch or In the America's?
- (1) The Bible affirms that the "disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).
 - (2) The Book of Mormon misses that by several thousand miles and nearly 100 years in having believers in Christ called Christians in 73 B.C. (Alma 46:15).

8. Zedekiah's Sons Slain or Not?
 - (1) The Bible tells us in 2 Kings 25:7 "they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes".
 - (2) The Book of Mormon has one supposed son of Zedekiah (Mulek) living and in the America's (Heleman 8:21).
9. 3 Days or 3 Hours?
 - (1) The Bible records in Mark 15:33 that at Jesus' crucifixion there was darkness for 3 hours.
 - (2) The Book of Mormon has darkness for 3 days (3 Nephi 8:20-23).
10. "Until" or Go For Visits?
 - (1) The Bible tells us in Acts 2:34-35 and 3:20-21 that Jesus is to remain in heaven after his ascension "until" his foes are made his footstool, and "until the times of restitution".
 - (2) The Book of Mormon has him appearing in the America's after his ascension (3 Nephi 10:18-19).

More could be said about how the Book of Mormon does not agree with the Bible, but this is sufficient to show that one cannot take both as being the Word of God.

IV. The Book of Mormon vs The Book of Mormon

One of the several proofs of the Bible is its unity; there are no contradictions within it. Such cannot be said of the Book of Mormon.

1. By Prophecy or not?
 - (1) On the title page of the Book of Mormon we find the claim that it was "Written by way of commandment and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation", and even "the interpretation thereof by the gift of God". Unbelievably in the very next paragraph we find the statement, "And now if there are faults they are the mistakes of men"! It even gets worse after that.
 - (2) You cannot even go past verse 3 of the first book without finding a like problem. Instead of upholding the claim of prophecy and inspiration we find the following statement in regard to the record contained in the Book of Mormon: "...I make it with mine own hand;

and I make it according to my knowledge" (1 Nephi 1:3) (emphasis mine - JHW).

- (3) Again in the same book in chapter 19 we find Nephi told to make a record. Of his ability to do this he says, "Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old . . ." (1 Nephi 19:6) (emphasis mine - JHW).
- (4) Also look to Jacob 2:26; Ether 5:1; Mormon 8:12. All these passages and more make the claim that the record found in the Book of Mormon is in error!
- (5) In spite of the claim of being interpreted "by the gift of God" there have been well over 3,000 changes in the book. Is this the "spirit of prophecy and of revelation" of which we are told in the title page?

2. Baptism essential or not?

- (1) In 3 Nephi 11:33,3 we find the teaching that baptism is essential to one's salvation, "...whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned."
- (2) Just a few chapters earlier we read of those that "should be baptized with water, and this as a witness and a testimony before God, and unto the people, that they had repented and received remission of their sins" (3 Nephi 7:25) (emphasis mine - JHW).

3. Flesh and blood or Spirit?

- (1) Alma 22:9-11 teaches that God is a Spirit.
- (2) Ether 3:9 (and also Doctrine and Covenants 130:22) teaches that He is flesh and blood!

4. All powerful, or idiot?

- (1) Many are the references in the Book of Mormon to the greatness and power of God. For example, the brother of Jared exclaims at one point, "..I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man..." (Ether 3:4).

- (2) In the same context we find God tells the Jaredites to build football shaped barges like they have built before (2:16). He even tells them the length . . . "the length of a tree"! After they build them just like God tells them, they find they can't see, nor breath in them, and can't even steer them (2:18-19)! What happened to this "God"? Remember, this aren't even the first ones, they had built them before! One wonders how many people had died in the previous crafts because of such blunders on the part of their "God"! But it gets worse in that this great "God" has to begin asking the brother of Jared how to solve the problem (2:23,25). Of course God was able to solve one of the problems Himself. In order for them to get air, He tells them to put a hole in the top and bottom. If they need air, pull it out, but if water comes in, stop it up again (2:20)! We suppose they find out which is best to pull by trial and error. And this is supposed to be the great and powerful God?

Again we come away from our examination of Mormon works seeing their great lacking. As the title page says, "if there are faults they are the mistakes of men".

V. The Book of Mormon vs Doctrine and Covenants

1. Baptism Essential or Not?
 - (1) In D&C 20:37 we read "And again, by way of commandment to the church concerning the manner of baptism. All those who humble themselves before God, and desire to be baptized ... and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church (emphasis mine, JHW).
 - (2) Such contradicts not only the Bible, but also the statement in 3 Nephi 11:33-34 stating the necessity of baptism for remission of sins.
2. Monogamy or Polygamy?
 - (1) D&C 132 sets forth the controversial doctrine of plural marriages. The importance of this doctrine is seen in verse 4 when we are told that if one fails to abide in this covenant, "then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory". (Due to the "law of the land" Mormons claimed to have ceased teaching and practicing polygamy in 1890. This in itself would be a refusal to obey God even in the face of persecution as did the apostles and others - Acts 4&5)

- (2) This teaching directly contradicts Alma 34:32-35 where we are told "this life is the time for monogamy" as well as Jacob 2:23-27 and 3:5. Verse 27 states "there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none".
3. Christ Did or Didn't Show Himself to Man?
 - (1) In D&C 107:53-54 we read of Christ showing Himself to Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahaleel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah.
 - (2) In Ether 3:13-15 we are told "Behold I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son [(?) (JHW)] . . . never have I showed myself unto man who I have created . . ."
4. Baptism for the Dead ... Yes or No?
 - (1) D&C 124:22ff sets forth the practice of one being baptized on behalf of one who has previously died.
 - (2) This practice directly contradicts Alma 34:32-35 where we are told "this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God" and that if you "procrastinate" your repentance until death "ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his...this is the final state of the wicked".
5. God is Spirit or Flesh and Bones?
 - (1) D&C 130:22 tells us that the "Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also."
 - (2) Alma 22:9-11 tells us that God is Spirit. (As noted earlier, the Book of Mormon contradicts itself on this in Ether 3:9)

VI. The Pearl of Great Price Versus the Bible

We will now look to another of the supposed "inspired works" of Mormonism and see how it contradicts the Bible.

1. Fulfilled or Not?
 - (1) In Joseph Smith 2:41 we read that an angel named Moroni, in appearing to Joseph Smith in his room "quoted the second chapter of Joel, from the twenty-eighth verse to the last. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled ... "

- (2) This is a direct contradiction to the words of the apostle Peter spoken by inspiration in Acts 2:16-21 in which he referred to the same passage from Joel and said, "this is that".
2. When Was Abram's Name Changed?
 - (1) In Abraham 2:3 we find where the Lord supposedly said, "Abraham, get thee our of thy country ...".
 - (2) This contradicts the Bible record of "Abram" being told to leave his country (Genesis 12:4), then some time later in Genesis 17:5 we find that God changed Abram's name to Abraham. [Oddly enough this "God" of Mormonism remembers that Abraham's wife is still called "Sarai" instead of Sarah.
3. 62 or 75?
 - (1) Abraham 2:14 states that "I, Abraham was sixty and two years old when I departed out of Haran".
 - (2) The Bible states that "Abraham was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran" (Genesis 12:4).
4. God's Idea or Abram's?
 - (1) In Abraham 2:22-25 we are told that is was God's idea for Sarai to tell the Egyptians that she was Abram's sister.
 - (2) The Bible account makes it plain that such was Abram's idea (Genesis 12:11-13).
5. God or Gods?
 - (1) In Abraham 4 and 5 we are repeatedly told of the "Gods" who formed the earth.
 - (2) Such, though in keeping with the Mormon doctrine of the plurality of "Gods", is far from the Bible teaching that "there is one God; and there is none other but He" (Mark 12:32; cf. Deuteronomy 4:35). Also, within the book of Moses 1:6 (in the Pearl of Great Price) we find the statement made that "there is no God beside me." Thus the Pearl of Great Price contradicts itself also.
6. Saw God's Face or Not?

- (1) In Moses 1:2 we are told Moses "saw God face to face, and he talked with him".
 - (2) In Exodus 33:11 we are told "the Lord spake unto Moses face to face" but we are sure such does not indicate Moses saw God face to face, for in verse 20 of that same chapter God told Moses, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."
7. Beginning in Jerusalem or With Adam?
- (1) Joseph Smith has Adam proclaiming repentance and remission of sins in Moses 6:52-62 and even Noah proclaiming it in Moses 8:23-24!
 - (2) The Bible plainly affirms that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). Such was fulfilled in Acts 2.

It seems in light of the above, that this Pearl is not of such a "great price" after all!

VII. Doctrine and Covenants Versus Reality

Another of the great proofs for the inspiration of the Bible is the multitude of fulfilled prophesy. But the Doctrine and Covenants falls flat in this respect as in others.

1. The Temple in Independence.
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 84:1-5, penned in September of 1832, states that a temple was to be built in Independence, Missouri in that generation. Such obviously was not done.
2. The Great War.
 - (1) In Doctrine and Covenants 87:1-8 we have the prophesy of a great war which was to "shortly come to pass". The Mormons claim such was fulfilled in the Civil War, but the specifics listed in the "prophesy" make it clear that such was not fulfilled in the Civil War. Note some of the particulars which were not fulfilled ...
 - A. It was to include all nations (2,3),
 - B. Britain was specifically named as being involved (3),
 - C. slaves were to rise against their masters,

D. all the world was to suffer a great famine and plague.

Such obviously did not occur. The Mormons like to make much out of the statement that it would begin with South Carolina (1), but the papers of that day show that even as early as 1832 South Carolina had threatened to secede from the union. All the statement of South Carolina shows is that Joseph Smith read the papers.

3. The Nauvoo House.
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 124:22-23 tells us of a house to be built in Nauvoo, Illinois which was to be for Joseph Smith and his seed "forever and ever". The house was destroyed shortly after Joseph Smith's death.

VIII. Doctrine and Covenants Versus the Bible

1. John Alive or Dead?
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 7:3 claims that John the apostle is still alive and on the earth and will remain as such until the Lord comes again.
 - (2) Such an idea was refuted in John 21:33. [Note that if John were upon the earth, then Joseph Smith's claim that all authority had left the earth would be false!]
2. Changed or Keep Growing?
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 63:50-51 tells us that when the Lord returns that children will remain alive on the earth until they grow to men, then they will die.
 - (2) Such contradicts the Bible teaching that we will all be changed at that time (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58) and also the fact that there will be no earth left to grow on at His coming - 2 Peter 3:10.
3. Flesh or Spirit?
 - (1) As already noted, Doctrine and Covenants states God has flesh and bones (130:22).
 - (2) That contradicts the plain Bible teaching that God is spirit (John 4:24).

4. Polygamy or Monogamy?
 - (1) The Doctrine and Covenants teaches that God demanded polygamy (132.)
 - (2) Christ tells us that monogamy has been God's plan from the "beginning" (Matthew 19:1-5).

IX. Doctrine and Covenants Versus Itself

1. Who is Adam?
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 116 states that Adam is "the Ancient of Days."
 - (2) Doctrine and Covenants 107:54 says he is "Michael the Archangel".
2. Pure Wine of the Grape or ...?
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 89:5-6 states that in the sacrament, only "pure wine of the grape" is to be used, and that of their own making.
 - (2) Doctrine and Covenants 27:2 says "it mattereth not" what is used.
3. Christ or the Father?
 - (1) Doctrine and Covenants 29:1 tells us that the person speaking is Christ, yet in verse 42 we find that it is the Father. Perhaps such is explained by the statement in Ether 3:14 which has the Christ saying "I am the Father and the Son".
4. Polygamy Again!
 - (1) As already noted, Doctrine and Covenants 132 demands polygamy.
 - (2) Doctrine and Covenants 49:16 states "one wife" is to be had.

Conclusion:

From this brief examination of the "inspired works" of Mormonism we find that by no stretch of the imagination can any one of them substantiate a claim of divine origin.

As Joseph Smith himself said, "Remember, remember that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men" (Doctrine and Covenants 3:3). The Bible has never been "frustrated" by the attacks of men because it lives up to the claim that it is God's inspired word. No other book, including all the supposed inspired works of Mormonism, can uphold such a claim.

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