

The God of Mormonism

Text: John 8:51-59

Introduction:

1. Exodus 3:13-14 we find revealed to Moses (and us) the Great I Am. In our text we find Jesus declaring Himself to be that same One. These passages are among many from which we proudly make the claim of Jesus being divine.
2. Today, while we still make this claim, there are others who seek to stand with us on this truth but actually fall far short of it. In this lesson we will examine one such claim and see its failing. In doing so we will not only expose error for what it is, but will increase our assurance in the truth of God's Word.

Discussion:

I. Some Alarming Quotes From Mormonism

1. Jesus and Satan, like the rest of us, were spirit brothers and sons of God before the spirit of Jesus was given a body by Mary in Bethlehem. The Mormon "Book of Moses" presents Satan and Jesus as contending for the privilege of taking a body of flesh in order to become the redeemer, with Jesus winning the contest. [See Joseph Smith, *Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 4:1-4.]
2. When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus... he was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is his Father? He is the first of the human family. ...Jesus our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden. (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:50-51, as cited in Gordon H. Fraser, *Is Mormonism Christian?* (Chicago: Moody, 1955), p. 58.)
3. "His humanity is to be recognized as real and ordinary ...whatever happened to him may happen to any one of us. ...The divinity of Jesus, and the divinity of all other noble and stately souls, in so far as they, too, have been influenced by a spark of Deity - can be recognized as manifestations of the Divine." (Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology* (Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1883).
4. "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." (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, pp. 32-33). (president of the LDS church from 1973-1985)

"In the wilderness of Judaea, on the temple's pinnacles and on the high mountain, a momentous contest took place between two brothers, Jehovah and Lucifer, sons of Elohim... Satan, also a son of God, had rebelled and had been cast out of heaven and not permitted an earthly body as had his brother Jehovah. Much depended upon the outcome of this spectacular duel" (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, p.34).
5. In the "I Have a Question" section of the LDS magazine *Ensign*, Jess L. Christensen wrote: "On first hearing, the doctrine that Lucifer and our Lord, Jesus Christ, are brothers may seem surprising to some—especially to those unacquainted with latter-day revelations. But both the scriptures and the prophets affirm that Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers. Isa. 14:12; D&C 76:25–27.) Both Jesus and Lucifer were strong leaders with great knowledge and influence. But as the Firstborn of the Father, Jesus was Lucifer's older brother. (See Col. 1:15; D&C 93:21.)" (Jess L. Christensen, "I Have a Question," *Ensign*, June 1986, pp.25–26.)

II. Now That Your Attention Has Been Gotten!... What Are Some Specific Differences in Bible Teaching About Jesus and Mormon (LDS) Teaching?

1. His Conception
 - a. Mormon teaching
 - i. "The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood---was begotten of his Father as we were of our fathers" (Brigham Young; Journal of Discourses vol.8, p.115); and "when the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness [flesh and blood]. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost" (Journal of Discourses, vol.1, p.50).
 - ii. "The birth of the Savior was a natural occurrence unattended by any degree of mysticism, and the Father God was the literal parent of Jesus in the flesh as well as in the spirit" (Joseph Fielding Smith; Religious Truths Defined, p.44).
 - b. Bible teaching – Matthew 16:17; John 4:24; Matthew 1:18-23
2. His family status (in addition to His being a brother to Satan, and literally our "spirit brother")
 - a. Mormon teaching – "the great Messiah who was the founder of the Christian religion, was a polygamist...marrying many honorable wives himself...God the Father had a plurality of wives...the Son followed the example of his Father...both God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ inherit their wives in eternity as well as in time" (Orson Pratt; The Seer, p.172, 1853).
 - b. Bible teaching – 1 Peter 4:11
3. His Diety
 - i. Mormon teaching
 - (1) "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" (Bruce McConkie; Mormon Doctrine, p.576-7).
 - (2) He [Jesus] is the Firstborn of the Father. By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in his pre-existent state" (Bruce McConkie; Mormon Doctrine, p. 129).
 - ii. Bible teaching – John 1:1, 14

Conclusion:

1. Many claim to follow Jesus, but we must always examine their teachings in light of the Word of God (Acts 17:11). When such is done, we sadly find that there are those who claim to follow Jesus, but the one they follow is far from the true Jesus.
2. It is a great assurance that we can look to the Word and KNOW Jesus and thus have the assurance that same Word reveals!