

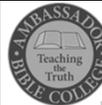
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SALT LAKE CITY TEMPLE



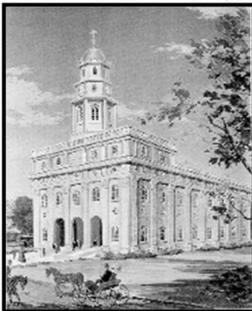
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NAUVOO, ILLINOIS TEMPLE



Purposes for Temples –
 1. Marriage for Time and Eternity
 2. Baptism for the Dead
 3. Endowment – picturing one's progression back to God

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ST. GEORGE, UTAH TEMPLE

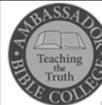
COMPLETED IN 1877, THIS TEMPLE WAS THE FIRST ONE BUILT WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.



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LOS ANGELES MORMON TEMPLE



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SUGGESTED LOCATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA FOR BOOK OF MORMON PLACES

Two Views of Book of Mormon Geography

Traditional View: According to Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon peoples ranged over the entire western hemisphere.

Approximately 6000 Miles

Limited Geography Theory: According to LDS scholars, the Book of Mormon peoples inhabited only a small area of Central America.

The "Limited Geography Theory" results in a severe directional skewing and places the hill Cumorah basic side in Central America.

Adapted from John L. Sorenson, An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon, p. 21

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PALMYRA NEW YORK

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JOSEPH SMITH'S FIRST VISION

Age 14

“One of them spoke to me calling me by name, and said pointing to the other – ‘This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!’” (Joseph Smith’s Testimony, p. 5)

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JOSEPH SMITH

1805-1844

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DESCRIPTION OF JOSEPH SMITH

“Joseph Smith was the fourth among ten children. His father was a man of unstable, restless disposition. He had no settled occupation, but tried his fortune— always without success—at various pursuits, and was a believer in witchcraft. Occasionally he gained money by fortune-telling and selling blessings. *The prophet’s mother was superior to the father in intelligence and force of will, but not less ignorant, and a firm believer in supernatural visions, apparitions, and dreams, also in cures by faith. Moreover, both the grandfathers of the prophet were much given to religious superstition.*” [*The New Schaff-Herzog, Article “Mormons” p. 11*].

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DESCRIPTION OF JOSEPH SMITH

“Here their [in NY State, the Smith family] reputation was no better. They were considered deficient in honor and veracity, though not as positively malicious. The boys were lazy and roving, several of them could not read. Joseph was unkempt and immoderately lazy. He could read though not without difficulty, wrote a very imperfect hand, and had limited understanding of elementary arithmetic. *The evolution of such a boy into a prophet and founder of a new religion is a highly interesting psychological problem, which can not be solved without a knowledge of his ancestry, of his mental peculiarities, and of his early environment.*” [*The New Schaff-Herzog, Article “Mormons” p. 12*].

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APPEARING TO JOSEPH SMITH – 18 yrs. old.

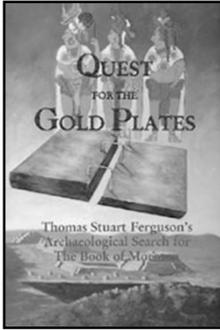


MORONI BURYING THE GOLD PLATES OF HISTORY.

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Angel Moroni

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HILL CUMORAH WHERE PLATES FOUND

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TRANSLATING BOOK OF MORMON



© 1999 Institute for Religious Research

Joseph Smith translating

For more information about the origins of the Book of Mormon, go to: WWW.MORMONSTUDIES.COM

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Allegedly written by the Prophet Mormon on Golden Plates. It was buried by Moroni who later became an Angel and led Joseph Smith to the plates. Smith translated the plates and this translation became the Book of Mormon

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The Book of Mormon is about the lost history of the Americas. Nephites (godly folk) and Lamanites (ungodly folk – ancestors of the Indians) fought each other and Nephites were overwhelmed. Mormon, a Nephite general wrote down the history and gave it to his son Moroni.

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THE LAMANITES



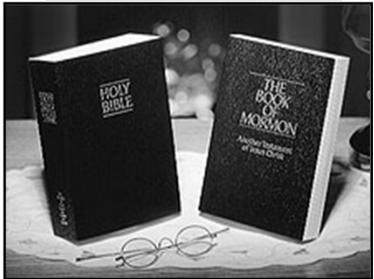
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MORMON HOLY BOOKS



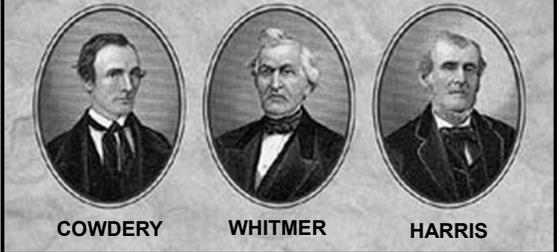
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THREE WITNESSES TO THE PLATES



COWDERY WHITMER HARRIS

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WITNESSES TO THE GOLD PLATES



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WITNESSES TO THE GOLD PLATES

“The Rev. John Alonzo Clark once put the question to Harris, ‘Did you see the plates with your natural eyes just as you see the penholder in my hand?’”

“Harris replied: ‘Well, I did not see them as I see the penholder, but I saw them with the eye of faith. I saw them as plainly as I see anything whatever about me although at the time it was covered with a cloth.’ (*Gleanings by the Way*, Philadelphia, 1842).” “A few years later all of the “three” witnesses fell away from Mormonism and declared their previous testimony to be false.” [*The New Schaff-Herzog*, Article “Mormons”, p. 12].

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THE DEATH OF JOSEPH SMITH IN 1844

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Brothers Joseph and Hyrum Smith in the spot where they were killed in Carthage Illinois

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Brigham Young

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MORMON BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD IS AN IMPORTANT RITE.

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BACKGROUND

FOUNDER – Joseph Smith – (1805-1844)

GOD – A different view of the Trinity

SCRIPTURES – The Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon are considered equally inspired

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – At age 14 (1820) Joseph Smith saw a manifestation of the Father and the Son (his first vision). He was searching for a church to attend. He was told that none of the churches were right and that God would help him restore the Christian Church on earth.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – He was led to find the golden plates of the writings of Mormon (by the angel Moroni who before his death was Mormon’s son). They were in “reformed Egyptian). Smith translated the plates with the use of a set of crystal stones (“Urim and Thummin”). Three witnesses attested to seeing the golden plates, but later said it was a lie.

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BACKGROUND

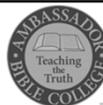
HISTORY - The Book of Mormon was produced and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was established in 1830.

Joseph Smith and his brother were killed in 1844 by a mob in Illinois.

In 1847 Brigham Young led the Church to Salt Lake City, Utah.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY – In 1844 descendants of Joseph Smith broke with the Mormons and started the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints.

ORGANIZATION – Local Church is called a “ward”. Fullness of the body includes priests, high priests, patriarchs and apostles as well as a prophet and president. They believe they have both the OT and the NT organization covered in their organization.

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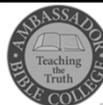
REORGANIZED MORMONS

SIMILARITIES

- BOOK OF MORMON
- RESTORED CHRISTIANITY BELIEF
- INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI WILL BE SITE OF MILLENNIUM
- REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A MORMON CHRISTIAN

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REORGANIZED MORMONS

DIFFERENCES

- NO TEMPLES OR SECRET SERVICES
- VIEW OF CELESTIAL MARRAIGE
- GOD WAS ALWAYS GOD
- REJECT POLYGAMY

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BELIEFS

- Only true church belief
- Conversion is through belief, repentance, baptism
- Punished for your sins, not Adam's
- Trinity is not a 3-in-1 God
- Universal Salvation

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BELIEFS

- They have pictures of "Christ"
- They believe in tithing to support the church
- Family oriented and generally clean-cut
- They believe we will become God, going back to Him.
- Some similarities to Masons in their secret ceremonies

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SPECIAL BELIEFS

- Special history of the Americas
- Temples are sacred not secret
- Proxy Baptism for the dead
- Marriage for time and eternity
- Millennium to be spent on earth in Independence, Missouri with Christ

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SPECIAL BELIEFS

- Israel will be re-gathered during millennium
- Lord's Supper every Sunday with bread and water
- Mary is God the Father's wife in heaven
- Some sects practice polygamy, but officially it is proscribed
- Oaths are taken during the temple experience

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OATH TAKEN DURING TEMPLE CEREMONY

"Peter still talking says: 'You and each of you covenant, promise and agree that you will pray and always continue to almighty God to avenge the blood of the prophets upon this nation; ... Each man and woman is here instructed to raise his or her hand making a solemn vow of agreement. Candidates are instructed that if they disobey or reveal this oath that their blood should be shed as an atonement. Other terrible penalties are also explained if the above is disobeyed.'" (TEMPLE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS)

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POLYGAMY SANCTIONED

"And again, as pertaining to the law of the priesthood – if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else." (DOCTRINES AND COVENANTS, Section 132:61; p. 272)

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POLYGAMY SANCTIONED

“And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to him and they are given unto him; therefore is he justified.” (DOCTRINES AND COVENANTS, Section 132:62; p. 272)

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POLYGAMY SANCTIONED

“Being accounted among the specially ‘faithful’, my parents were among the first to whom polygamy was taught by Joseph Smith himself, and my father was commanded by him to ‘live up to his privileges,’ and take another wife.

At first, the thought of taking a second wife to share his home with the one whom he had first loved, who had been the object of his youthful dreams and of his manhood’s devotion;

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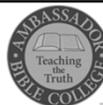
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POLYGAMY SANCTIONED

“who stood by him, through every reverse, with the courage, and consideration, and love which only a strong-natured, tender-hearted, earnest-souled woman could show under such circumstances; who was, in every sense, a help meet, and above all, the mother of his children, - was hateful to him.” (WIFE NO. 19; pp. 100-101)

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BLOOD ATONEMENT

“It was during this excitement that the terrible doctrine of the Blood-Atonement was first preached. So high did the feeling run that people who were guilty of certain crimes were counseled to shed their blood to save their souls.” (WIFE NO. 19; pp. 187)

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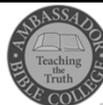
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BLOOD ATONEMENT

“Brigham Young, not to be behind his counselor, assured the Saints that this doctrine of throat-cutting and blood shedding was pleasing to the Lord, and that it was a glorious and soul-saving belief.” (WIFE NO. 19; pp. 188)

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BLOOD ATONEMENT

“He says, - ‘There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering on the altar, as in ancient days;; and there are sins that the blood of a lamb or calf, or turtle-doves, cannot remit, but they must be atoned for *by the blood of the man.*’” (WIFE NO. 19; pp. 189)

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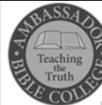
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HOW LIKE UCG?

- **Baptism by immersion**
- **Believe in a Millennium on earth**
- **Man punished for his own sins**
- **Tithing**
- **Man to become part of God's family**

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HOW UNLIKE UCG?

- **Believe in a Trinity**
- **Man is a spirit inside of a fleshly body**
- **Use pictures of supposed "Christ"**
- **Use secret oaths**
- **Believe in universal salvation in the end**

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HOW UNLIKE UCG?

- **Sunday worship**
- **Different view of Lucifer and demons**
- **Lord's Supper with bread and water**
- **Marriage for time and eternity**
- **Book of Mormon is also Scripture**

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PROMINENT LOCATIONS

- **United States – more than six million members**
- **Have missionaries in over 200 countries of the world**
- **Worldwide Membership is over 15 million and attendance is listed as 25 million.**

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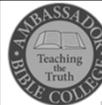
MORMONS

WHAT AM I?

1. **MARRIAGE FOR TIME AND ETERNITY**
2. **BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD**
3. **MAN IS A SPIRIT COME TO EARTH**
4. **OATHS ARE USED IN THE TEMPLE**
5. **BOOK OF MORMON = SCRIPTURE**

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WHAT AM I?

1. **MARRIAGE FOR TIME AND ETERNITY**
Matthew 22:23-30; Romans 7:2
I Timothy 5:14; Ecclesiastes 9:5
Matthew 19:6
Marriage is until death, not for eternity!

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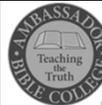
WHAT AM I?

2. **BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD**
I Corinthians 15:29; Ezek. 18:20
Mark 12:18; Acts 2:37-38 – Must repent!

3. **MAN IS A SPIRIT COME TO EARTH**
Gen 2:7; John 3:13; I Timothy 6:16
Revelation 5:10; I Corinthians 15:46

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WHAT AM I?

4. **OATHS ARE USED IN TEMPLE SERVICE**
James 5:12; Matthew 5:33-37; 23:16

5. **BOOK OF MORMON = SCRIPTURE**
John 17:17; Revelation 22:18-19;
Galatians 1:8; Isa. 8:20; Romans 3:1-2

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THE END

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