

The Discerner

the voice of... **Religion Analysis Service**

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*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*

The Discerner

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DEAR READER

I want to let our readers know that the editor of the Discerner, Larry Sutherland is experiencing some continuing health issues as we are preparing this issue. He is in the hospital at this time and I know that he would appreciate all of your prayers in behalf of his wife Shirley and himself as he recovers.

He is 85 years old, but as determined as ever. He is a wonderful example of dedicated Christian service and we have been blessed to have him serve as our editor these many years.

Indeed, he has a great testimony and in our next issue, we will be sharing the thrilling story of his life of service as a missionary for Christ around the world.

Also, we are excited to introduce to our readers our newest board member at *Religion Analysis Service*, Doug Steiner (see below).

Steve Lagoon

WITH THIS ISSUE

We have three articles in this issue of the Discerner.

The first is my response to recent efforts by the Mormon Church to be accepted as a true Christian church.

The second is an excellent article by Peter Ditzel discussing 1 Corinthians 13:10 and the question of continuing prophecy after the age of the apostles. Peter heads Word of His Grace Ministries and his website is wordofhisgrace.org.

The final article containing a comparison between Christianity and Islam is very timely in light of recent events. It is written by our Canadian Baptist friend Bary Claud Gaudreault of Alberta.

And, as always, don't forget to take our quiz. This time it concerns the founders of various cults. Thank you all for your continuing financial support and your prayers for the success of our ministry.

God bless, and Merry Christmas,

Steve Lagoon

NEW BOARD MEMBER DOUG STEINER

All of us at Religion Analysis Service are pleased to announce a new addition to our board. In October, the RAS board voted unanimously to receive Doug Steiner as our newest member of the board! We are thankful to Doug for his commitment to the ministry of RAS and we know that he will be a blessing to our ongoing work in defense of biblical truth.

Brief Biography of Doug Steiner

Douglas resides in River Falls Wisconsin with his wife Lois. He is a life-long Christian, raised in a home with God-loving parents. While attending a Brethren church, he accepted Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior at the age of thirteen at a Bible camp.

Doug enlisted in the Marines after completing High School until his retirement from active duty in 2000. Using veteran education benefits, he completed an Undergraduate Degree in Bible Exposition from Northwestern College in 2009 and a Masters Degree in Theological Studies (Bible Exposition) in 2013. All of these courses were completed online as Doug worked part time driving a bus school route (a children's ministry he still enjoys) while supporting his wife (Lois) with her home music studio and private school and church accompaniment ministries.

Doug is a staunch defender of Bible-based Christianity and doctrine. He supports a historical-literal-grammatical hermeneutic. His primary interest lies in the New Testament and Early Church periods where a young Church encountered false teachings like Gnosticism and a cult like Montanism. He firmly believes today's Christians must be ready and able to refute errors and/or attacks against the Person and Work of Jesus Christ as well as the inerrancy and infallibility of God's revelation to mankind—The Bible.

His life objective is "To bring glory to God."

- M.A. Theological Studies—Bible Exposition, Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- B.A. Biblical Studies, Summa Cum Laude, Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Computer and Business courses, Dean's List, University of Wisconsin—River Falls.
- Certified Military Instructor with advanced 'Master Training Specialist' designation.
- Experiences, Private Israel Bible Study Tour, Summer 2008 (Dr. Doug Bookman, Dr. Ronn Johnson).

MORMON GOSPEL TOPIC ESSAYS

by Steve Lagoon

One of the comforting aspects of the Christian faith is the stability of its message. The reason for this is that Christian beliefs are based upon the Bible. Since the Bible does not change, neither does the Christian gospel message. Christian leaders are not called to be innovators, reshaping the Christian message to conform to the cultural beliefs of each age. Rather, they are called to be faithful witnesses and faithful transmitters of the timeless apostolic message.

The Changing Nature of Cults

Unfortunately, the Bible warns of those that would wish to make a name for themselves, or to draw upon themselves a following. For instance, the apostle Paul said to the Ephesian elders, “Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:30). Typically they do so by rejecting the historic and biblical faith, and instead twist the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:16) to their own (and their followers) destruction.

So one of the regular features of cults is their changing doctrines and practices. Because their teachings are but the teachings of fallible men (not anchored to the word of God), they are constantly being changed and ‘updated.’

Important Changes Occurring in the Mormon Church

This is certainly true of the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, also known as the Mormons. Almost certainly due to the explosion of information in our internet age, the Mormon Church is having to respond to embarrassing facts that it had previously been able to brush under a rug.

Gospel Topic Essays

Consider this quote from the website of the *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints* or the LDS Church.

Recognizing that today so much information about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be obtained from questionable and often inaccurate sources, officials of the Church began in 2013 to publish straightforward, in-depth essays on a number of

topics. The purpose of these essays has been to gather accurate information from many different sources and publications and place it in the Gospel Topics section of LDS.org, where the material can more easily be accessed and studied by Church members and other interested parties.¹ Ostensibly, then, the LDS Church wants to provide accurate information and responses to clarify the alleged misinformation that is circulating in our culture (books, magazine articles, tracts) but most prominently on the internet

It would be impossible to examine all of these *Gospel Topic Essays* in one article. Therefore, we intend to have a series of articles in upcoming issues of the *Discerner* responding to these various LDS essays, beginning with this current article responding to the LDS Church essay entitled: *Are Mormons Christians?*

Are Mormons Christians?

This is indeed a good place to start. This is because the LDS Church has gone through great efforts and clever media campaigns to convince the public that the LDS Church is just another Christian denomination.

This question also raised a lot of controversy when the book “How wide the Divide: A Mormon & an Evangelical in Conversation”² was published in 1997 and implied that gulf that separated the LDS Church from the historic and biblical Christian Church was not as great as most assumed and that perhaps some conversation could help close the gap further.

How Wide the Divide?

There were several elements about *How Wide the Divide?* that were cause for concern. For instance, it would have been better if the evangelical scholar had been an expert in the field of cults and apologetics rather than Craig Blomberg who was out of his area of expertise, despite his outstanding credentials as a New Testament scholar.

More to the point, the Mormon representative, Professor Stephen Robinson of Brigham Young University, painted a picture that was both unfair and untrue to the facts of history. Almost from the beginning, Robinson aimed his rhetorical weapons at any Christian who has shined the light of truth on Mormonism. His chief target was the great Christian cult expert Walter Martin (the original Bible

1 <https://www.lds.org/topics/essays?lang=eng>.

2 Craig L. Blomberg & Stephen E. Robinson, *How Wide the Divide?: A Mormon & an Evangelical in Conversation*, Downers Grove IL (InterVarsity Press, 1997).

Answer Man) the author of the Kingdom of the Cults³ and the Maze of Mormonism⁴ among many other works.

Robinson assessed Walter Martin's "Virulent attacks on the LDS . . . Martin was unable or unwilling, to learn LDS definitions and adjust for them, preferring instead his own theory of willful deceit."⁵ It is hard to miss the irony of Robinson's statement; he begins by lamenting Martin's "virulent attacks on the LDS" and concluded by accusing Martin of "preferring . . . willful deceit."

Of course, Robinson gave no example of Martin's unfair characterizations of LDS teachings. Just personal attack on Martin himself for daring to speak the truth about the heresies of LDS theology. But it is not only Martin that receives arrows from Robinson's rhetorical attacks: "It is a rare things indeed for non-Mormons writing about the Saints to get it right even when they are trying to, and most contemporary non-LDS writing on the Mormons is frankly not trying to get it right."⁶ It seems then, that any Fundamentalist or Evangelical Christian that is critical of the LDS Church and its teaching should expect to have their motives questioned.

Despite many problems with *How Wide the Divide?*, nevertheless, it does discuss some of the major differences between Biblical Christianity and the LDS Church⁷ that form the basis for why the LDS Church is considered an heretical cult rather than a Christian denomination.

The Great Apostasy?

One of Robinson's chief contentions is that there is a major difference between what the Bible teaches and what the early church taught. The Mormons claim that while they agree with the Bible, they disagree with the all the changes of church teachings that occurred in the centuries following the apostolic age, which they contend occurred as a result of the early church's compromise with mainly Greek philosophy.⁸

In this Mormon retelling it is they that have been true to the Bible while the historic Christian Church has apostatized from biblical truth in favor of worldly philosophy. Indeed, says the LDS Church,

3 Walter Martin, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, Minneapolis MN (Bethany House Publishers, 1985 edition).

4 Walter Martin, *The Maze of Mormonism*, Ventura CA (Regal Books, 1978 edition).

5 Blomberg & Robinson, *How Wide the Divide?* 197.

6 Blomberg & Robinson, *How Wide the Divide?*, 14.

7 Blomberg & Robinson, *How Wide the Divide?*, 195-196.

8 Blomberg & Robinson, *How Wide the Divide?*, 16-17, 59-61, 80, 82-83, 86, 88-89, 92-93, 105, 133, 208, 210.

this apostasy was so complete that it necessitated the restoration of the church at the time of Joseph Smith Jr. in 1830.

The LDS pamphlet *Apostasy and Restoration* stated it as follows:

The Great Apostasy—The Dark Ages. Not long after the writing of these epistles, the predicted apostasy occurred. The persecutions intensified. Some of the members began to deny Jesus Christ . . . Pagan practices were adopted in some Christian communities. Among others members the Scriptures were adulterated by philosophical interpretations . . . Following the death of the apostles, revelation ceased. The authority of God was no longer among men. Christianity sickened and died. In time, a new religion grew up in its place—a religion that professed to be Jesus Christ’s church, but which in reality was a conglomerate of pagan worship and Greek philosophy . . . the history of the Roman Church itself bears eloquent witness that true Christianity never survived the ‘sunshine’ of Roman rule . . . Satan was able to set in motion—even during the lifetime of Jesus Christ and his apostles—those very countervailing forces that eventually led to the complete apostasy of the true church and the eventual creation of an apostate religion.⁹ We must stop for the moment to consider these very troubling LDS claims and how they are pertinent to our exploration of whether the LDS Church is a Christian Church?

The first point so clearly made in the foregoing LDS pamphlet is their claim that the LDS Church is the true church and that what is known as the historic Christian Church is not the true church, but merely a pagan philosophical corruption instigated by Satan to deceive the world. They make the same claim in this *Gospel Topic Essay*:

Scholars have long acknowledged that the view of God held by the earliest Christians changed dramatically over the course of centuries . . . The key ideological shift that began in the second century A.D., after the loss of apostolic authority, resulted from a conceptual merger of Christian doctrine with Greek philosophy.¹⁰

Let us first note that all restorationist groups such as the LDS Church that make this claim of early church apostasy run head on into the words of Jesus Christ who explicitly denied that such a universal apostasy would ever occur: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and *the gates of Hades will not overcome it*” (Matthew 16:18).

9 *Apostasy and Restoration: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City Utah (Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1982, 1983) 7, 9, 11).

10 *Gospel Topic Essays, Are Mormons Christian?* at <https://www.lds.org/topics/christians?lang=eng>

But let us continue to draw out the implications of the Mormon claims regarding what they call the *Great Apostasy*. The chief issue here is the claim by the LDS Church to be the only true Christian Church on earth. And if the LDS Church is the one true Christian Church, what of all the various Christian denominations?

The First Vision

It will helpful at this point to review the events in the life of Joseph Smith, and particularly how he came to be the founder of the LDS Church. We begin with 14 year old Smith's struggle concerning the correct religion that struck everything in motion.

Joseph Smith's family was living in the western portion of the state of New York in 1829, when by all accounts it was a time of great religious fervor, with revivals breaking forth all around. Indeed, some historians refer to this region as the burned—over district because of the many revival movements that moved through the area.

Whitney Cross stated: “‘The Burned-over District’ was the name given to western New York during the first half of the nineteenth century when the fires of the spirit swept over the area again and again . . . western New York had everything—revivalist, reformers, and prophets, saints, seers.”¹¹ Whitney Cross explained that the Smith family moved into this religiously charged atmosphere from Vermont in 1816 when Joseph was ten years old.¹² This environment weighed on Smith's mind, for we are told by an LDS publication that:

By 1820 the boy Joseph Smith was in his fifteenth year. Religious excitement was running high in the vicinity of Palmyra, where the Smiths lived. Ministers of several denominations were holding revivals, inviting all to join their churches. Members of the Smith family desired sincerely to become members of the true church of Christ, but how could they tell which of the many sects was true? Some members of the family favored one sect, some another. Joseph was especially concerned and confused. How could a fourteen-year-old boy know which church to join?¹³

Joseph Smith has testified of his own journey to discover which of the churches he was to join:

There was in the place where we lived an unusual excitement on the subject of religion. It commenced with the Methodists, but soon

11 Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*, New York (Harper & Row Publishers, 1950) Back Cover.

12 Cross, *The Burned-Over District*, 138.

13 Doyle L. Green & Randall L. Green, *Meet the Mormons: A Pictorial Introduction to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Its People*, Salt Lake City Utah (Deseret Book Company, 1973) 23-24.

became general among all the sects in that region. Indeed, the whole district seemed affected by it, and great multitudes united themselves to the different religious parties, which created no small stir and division among the people . . . My father's family was proselytized to the Presbyterian faith, and four of them joined . . . During this time of great excitement, my mind was called up to serious reflection . . . In process of time my mind became somewhat partial to the Methodist Sect, and I felt some desire to be united with them . . . In the midst of this war of words and tumult of opinions, I often said to myself, What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or, are they all wrong together? If any one of them be right, which is it, and how will I know?¹⁴ So we are brought along on the spiritual quest in the mind of young Joseph Smith to feel his dilemma. We are next told that Smith considered the words of James 1:5 concerning seeking God for wisdom and acted upon the promise in faith, calling upon God to clarify which was the correct church to join. According to Smith, this faith was rewarded by the experience now known as the *First Vision* in which God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Smith as two separate personages and answered Smith's question about the true church.

Smith's testimony continued:

I retired to the woods to make the attempt . . . Finding myself alone, 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 . . . 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 . . . 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 . . . I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right—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

¹⁴ *The Prophet Joseph Smith's Testimony*, Salt Lake City Utah (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, not dated) pp. 1-2.

sight; that those professors were all corrupt . . . He again forbade me to join with any of them.”¹⁵ Implications of the First Vision

Let us note several important implications of Smith’s alleged first vision. While it is true that people in the nineteenth century, no less than today, had to choose which church was the best one for them to attend, nevertheless, we should be clear that at the time of Smith, all these various denominations he mentioned (Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian) were all Christian denominations and shared the same essential beliefs. They were all grounded in a commitment to the Bible as God’s divine word, and to the teachings of the historic Christian Church derived from the Bible.

And it is just these churches that received the condemnation from God in Smith’s first vision. And it is just these churches that still exist today and are therefore under the condemnation of the ‘God’ that Smith claimed appeared to him.

Putting it all Together

So the picture that Joseph Smith testified to is clear. All the churches in the Protestant tradition (as well as Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions) are totally corrupt, their teachings but pagan philosophy disguised as Christian, but which are really satanic deceptions, and having no biblical or spiritual authority whatsoever.

Mormon Claims of Restoring True Church

Therefore, since there was said to be no true Christian Church on the earth while Smith investigated in 1819 and 1820, the true church had to be restored and according to the LDS Church, Joseph Smith would be God’s instrument and prophet for this restoration. And so were are told that on September 21, 1823:

A heavenly being, calling himself Moroni, appeared to Joseph and among other things told him that God had an important work for him to do. Deposited in a nearby hill were some gold plates, engraved in an ancient language, which contained the fullness of the everlasting gospel. His was to be the glorious privilege of translating the characters of the plates and becoming the instrument in God’s hand in restoring the gospel and reestablishing the church.¹⁶ According to the LDS Church, Joseph Smith completed the final works necessary for the restoration of true Christianity. On April 7, 1829 he began the translation of the Book of Mormon from the golden plates, completing the task four months later, and then

¹⁵ *The Prophet Joseph Smith’s Testimony*, pp. 3-4.

¹⁶ Green & Green, *Meet the Mormons*, 28.

published the work in the spring of 1830. During the period of this translating work, specifically on May 15, 1829, it is claimed that John the Baptist appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery “On the banks of the Susquehanna River” to ordain them to the Aaronic Priesthood and “He commanded us to go and be baptized and gave us directions that I should baptize Oliver Cowdery, and that afterwards he should baptize me.”¹⁷

Further, we are told:

Not long after this glorious event three heavenly messengers, Peter, James, and John, came as promised by the Baptist. These ancient Apostles of the Lord conferred upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery the Melchizedek Priesthood and the keys of the Holy Apostleship, the same authority Peter, James, and John had received anciently from the Savior.¹⁸ Finally, the restoration was complete when a group led by Joseph Smith signed the articles of incorporation on April 6, 1830 marking the official birth of the ‘Church of Christ’ (later expanded to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

It was important to rehearse these events that were fundamental to the foundation of the LDS Church because they remain the teachings of the LDS Church today, and because they speak powerfully against the idea that the LDS Church is Christian.

As we have seen, these foundational events and teachings of the LDS Church make it clear that they believe that the historic Christian Church represented by the Methodists, Baptist, Presbyterians, and others are not true Christian Churches (but are rather pagan imposters) and that there was no true Christian Church until Joseph Smith founded the LDS Church.

These LDS claims are fantastic if not utter fantasy, first and foremost because it is simply preposterous to suggest that the teachings of the LDS Church are in accord with the Bible. Any objective study will show how far the LDS Church deviates from Scriptural truth.

The Doctrine of God in the Bible Contrasted with Mormonism

It is practically an altruism that the Bible teaches Monotheism (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6-8, 24; 45:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5), the truth that there is one and only one God, existing eternally, and who has created and sustains the universe. This God, while being one, nevertheless exists

¹⁷ Green & Green, *Meet the Mormons*, 46.

¹⁸ Green & Green, *Meet the Mormons*, 47. Let us remember that the New Testament clearly teaches the cessation of the Aaronic Priesthood (Hebrews 9:26) and that the Melchizedek Priesthood belongs only to Christ (Hebrews 7:15-22).

in plurality of person. That is, there is one eternal being of God whom within His nature exists three distinct persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:16-27; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19; John 16:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2). Finally, it is this one God who has not only created the universe, but has created man and placed him on the earth (Isaiah 45:12).

Mormonism distorts every one of these biblical truths. Rather than being monotheistic, Mormonism can be said to be Henotheistic (the worship of one God while acknowledging other gods) since it claims to direct its worship to Elohim (God the Father), while also acknowledging other gods.¹⁹

It can be called tri-theistic²⁰ because it distorts the biblical record by teaching that the Father (whom they identify with Elohim), the Son (whom they identify with Yahweh/ Jehovah), and the Holy Spirit are not only three separate persons, but are also three separate beings; in other words they are not one God but three gods.²¹ Further, whereas the Bible teaches only the incarnation of the Son, "The word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (John 1:14), Mormonism teaches that God the Father has a literal human body.²² Finally, Mormonism is rightly called polytheistic²³ since it affirms not only that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate gods, but also that there also many millions of 'gods' that exist as well.²⁴

This follows from their teaching of the law of eternal progression or exaltation in which it is claimed that a man can become a god by following and obeying the laws of the Mormon gospel.²⁵ In fact, in distinction from the biblical record of God's eternal nature, Mormonism teaches that God was once a man, who only became God by following these same laws of the Mormon Gospel.²⁶

19 John Ankerberg & John Weldon, *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*, Eugene OR (Harvest House Publishers, 1999) 276. They stated, "Mormonism rejects the Christian Trinity for a belief in henotheism, the worship of one principal God (Elohim) among many."

20 Ankerberg & Weldon, *Encyclopedia of Cults*, 276. They stated, "Mormonism is also tri-theistic, stressing three primary earth gods."

21 Joseph Smith, as quoted by Joseph Fielding Smith, (the 10th LDS Prophet) in *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 370, as cited by *Concerned Christians Witness to Mormons*, Dan Adair, Peggy Brown et al, Mesa AZ (Concerned Christians, 1983) 7.

22 Joseph Smith Jr., *Doctrine & Covenants* 130:22, Salt Lake City Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1952 edition) 238.

23 Ankerberg & Weldon, *Encyclopedia of Cults*, 276. They stated, "Mormonism is also . . . polytheistic, accepting endless additional gods of other worlds."

24 Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6, p.4, as cited by James R. Spencer, *Have You Witnessed to a Mormon Lately?*, Old Tappan NJ (Chosen Books, 1986) 83. "You have got to learn to be gods yourselves . . . the same as all gods did before you."

25 Joseph Smith Jr., *Doctrine & Covenants* 132:20, 37, Salt Lake City Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1952 edition) 241.

26 Joseph Smith, as quoted by Joseph Fielding Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Salt Lake City, Utah (Deseret News Press, 1958) 345 as cited in Floyd McElvin, *The Mormon Illusion: What the Bible Says About the Latter-Day Saints*, Revised and Expanded Edition, Grand Rapids MI (Kregel Publications, 1997) 68.

Further, say the Mormons, reaching the apex of heresy, that all men may become gods in the very same way that God the Father did before them. Hence the famous Mormon couplet of Lorenzo Snow, the fifth LDS ‘prophet,’ “As man is, God once was; as God is, man can become.”²⁷ This brief survey shows that it is the historic Christian Church that has remained true to the Bible. Further, it is clear that rather than being a restoration of the true gospel, *Joseph Smith is the one whom rejected the true Christian church and formed a non-Christian cult with a false gospel.*

What of Smith’s Holy Messenger of Restoration?

But if a Mormon asks, “How could this be, Joseph Smith was directed to this gospel by holy messengers from heaven? We respond with the words of Paul, “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again; if anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”(Galatians 1:8-9).

Indeed, Mormonism preaches “a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all” (Galatians 1:6-7). But the Mormon cries, Smith saw a pillar of light in his vision. Yeah, “And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14).

We cannot say whether all the miraculous events and alleged visitations by heavenly messengers that are reported concerning Joseph Smith’s life were the mere fabrications of a young man with a great imagination, natural charisma, and a desire for power and comfort, or whether they were satanic manifestations designed to deceive Smith and his followers.

But it is clear that Mormonism has become a chain blinding men to the truth of the Bible and binding them to Satan’s Hell.

The Language Barrier

But what of the fact that Mormons claim that they share similar beliefs about Christ as savior and the godhead of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit? Here we must remember the warnings of Dr. Walter Martin in his classic book, the *Kingdom of the Cults*:

So it is possible for a Jehovah’s Witness, a Christian Scientists or a Mormon, for example, to utilize the terminology of Biblical Christianity . . . having already redesigned these terms in a

²⁷ *Millennial Star*, as cited by Anthony A. Hoekema, *The Four Major Cults*, Grand Rapids MI (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963) 39.

theological framework of his own making and to his own liking, but almost always at direct variance with historically accepted meanings of the terms. The student of cultism, then, must be prepared to scale the language barrier of terminology.²⁸ This is most certainly the case with Mormonism in which all the familiar biblical terms are used, but when digging beneath the surface, it is found that the terms have been redefined creating the illusion of agreement between a Christian and a Mormon when no such agreement actually exists.

Conclusion

Let us then be on guard against the double-talk of Mormonism wherein it downplays the very real and serious differences between itself and the historic Christian Church based upon the Bible. Simply because a group uses biblical terminology and claims to follow Christ does not mark them as true Christians. The New Testament records those who claimed to follow Christ, but whom were teaching damnable heresies (2 Peter 2:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-2).

Biblical Christians should also beware of the cunningness of the Mormon claim to be the one true Christian Church while down playing that belief in order to subtly deceive the unaware. Indeed, the LDS Church believes all other Christian churches are devoid of Christian authority and contain a false gospel. The LDS Church is all too eager to exploit the ignorance of the public concerning its real teachings and claims in order to draw more men into its deadly spiritual system.

Therefore, we conclude by appealing to those associated with Mormonism to rethink their commitment; and to trust their eternity to the objective teachings of the Bible and the gospel of Jesus Christ rather than to the subjective and unbiblical claims of Joseph Smith.

28 Walter Martin, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, Minneapolis MN (Bethany House Publishers, 1985 edition) 18.

PROPHECY CEASES

by Peter Ditzel

Q. Why do you say “that which is complete has come” in 1 Corinthians 13:10 refers to the canonization of Scripture?

A. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul is describing love, which, in verse 8, he says “never fails.” He goes on to say that the spiritual gifts of prophecies, tongues (the miraculous speaking in other languages), and knowledge will cease or end. Then, in verses 9-10, he says, “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect thing comes, then that which is in part will be caused to cease” (*Literal Version of the Holy Bible* used throughout). I have mentioned in several articles that I believe that Paul is referring to God’s complete revelation to us in the form of the Bible. For me to simply say this does not, of course, prove it. So I would like to now explain my line of reasoning.

Paul is writing this chapter to the Corinthians to define love and explain its superiority. The Corinthians seemed to have several problems, and one of them appears to be that they valued spiritual gifts even to the point of becoming jealous with one another over them (1 Corinthians 12). Along with this, they seemed to overvalue speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 14). All of this caused Paul to want to remind them that love is more valuable than any of these gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Paul says, “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophecies, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give out all my goods, and if I deliver my body that I be burned, but I do not have love, I am not profited anything.” So, love is superior to tongues, to prophesying, to the gift of knowledge, and even to faith. Indeed, giving all of our goods and even our bodies is of no value to us without love.

In verses 4-7, Paul describes qualities of love. Then, in verse 8, he says, “Love never fails. But if there are prophecies, they will be caused to cease; if tongues, they shall cease; if knowledge, it will be caused to cease.” “Never fails” is from the Greek, *oudepote ekpiptei*. It

means, “not at any time falls off.” That is, through all of the ages and eternity, there will always be love.

Prophecies will stop. The Greek word *katarg th sontai* literally means “idle down.” Tongues will cease (*pausontai*). Considering the context of the gift of prophecy and the gift of tongues, what is meant by knowledge in this verse is apparently the gift of knowledge, that is, miraculously revealing new knowledge to the assembly. The gift of knowledge was to “idle down” or stop. Love, on the other hand, will never be outdated or obsolete. It will never idle down or cease. It is eternal. That is Paul’s point here. But we surely have to admit that Paul is also saying that the gifts of prophecies, tongues, and knowledge will not continue forever. At some point future to Paul, they were to idle down and stop. The question is, when?

God used prophecies, tongues, and knowledge to add to the body of revelation for the general edification of the believers. So, when Paul says prophecies, tongues, and knowledge will cease, and he further says, “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect thing [*teleion*] comes, then that which is in part will be caused to cease,” I take him to mean that the *teleion*, or “complete” thing, refers to revelation. Some say that it refers to the coming of Jesus Christ. But that does not fit the context. Because prophecies, tongues, and knowledge are the immediate context, and they are means of receiving revelation, then good exegesis demands that we take Paul to mean *teleion* as referring to revelation. Paul is saying that when we have the complete body of revelation that God wants us to have, then those things—prophecies, tongues, and knowledge—that revealed only partly will idle down or cease.

We now have a body of revelation or canon of Scripture that we call the Bible. I believe that it is the complete body of revelation that God wants us to have. Obviously, there are mysteries about God that He does not want us to know in this life, and there may be some things that we will never know. But the Bible is the complete revelation that we need in this life. If we have this complete body of revelation, why would we need prophecies, tongues, and knowledge? We would not.

If someone were to argue that the Bible is not complete, and that we continue to need more revelation, then we would disagree on a basic tenet of Christianity: The Bible is given by inspiration of God; is infallible and inerrant; and is the revelation of all that is necessary to know about God, salvation, faith, worship, and Christian living. This is an axiom of Christianity that we believe by faith. Thus, believing this axiom about the Bible, I see that it perfectly fits what Paul is

saying about the complete revelation that would cause the partial forms of revelation of his day to cease.

Peter Ditzel

Word of His Grace Ministries

22 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE QURAN

by Bary Claud Gaudreault

Is the Quran “another” gospel from God that has been sent down from heaven by the angel Gabriel? Are the teachings in the Quran in harmony with the teachings of the Bible? Let us take a look at the Quran through the lens of the Bible for the answers. This is just a small sample regarding this study. The quotations from the Quran are taken from Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s English translation unless otherwise noted.

I. HOW MANY BOOKS COMPOSE THE BIBLE AND HOW MANY CHAPTERS COMPOSE THE QURAN?

A. The Bible is composed of sixty-six books.

B. The Quran is composed of one hundred and fourteen Surahs (chapters).

II. WHAT WAS THE LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPILE BIBLE AND THE QURAN?

A. The Bible was compiled over fifteen hundred years.

B. The Quran was compiled over twenty three years.

III. THE NUMBER OF HUMAN VESSELS INVOLVED IN WRITING THE BIBLE AND THE QURAN.

A. The Bible has one author (God) who used around 40 human agents to write the Scriptures in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

B. The Quran claims to have one author (Allah) who used one human agent (Muhammad) to write it down in Arabic.

IV. WHICH IS THE FINAL AND COMPLETE WORD FROM GOD: THE BIBLE OR THE QURAN?

A. The Bible teaches that it is the final, Complete Word of God:

1. Deuteronomy 4:2. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take any thing from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

2. Proverbs 30:6. Do not add to His words, Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.

3. Revelation 22:18. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

B. The Quran teaches that it also is another Word (gospel) from God:

22:54, And that those on whom knowledge has been bestowed may learn that the (Quran) is the Truth from the Lord, and that they may believe therein, and their hearts may be made humbly (open) to it: for verily Allah is Guide of those who believe, to the straight way.

V. THE NATURE OF GOD, A TRIUNITY, OR STRICT MONOTHEISM

A. The Bible teaches a Trinitarian monotheism God (One God, three persons):

1. Isaiah 48:12, 16. Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last... And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.

2. Matthew 3:16-17. Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved, in whom I am pleased."

3. Matthew 28:19. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

4. 2 Corinthians 13:14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

5. 1 Peter 1:2. Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ.

B. The Quran teaches a strict monotheistic God (One God, one person):

1. 5:73, They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a trinity: for there is no god except One God. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy) verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them.

2. 27:26, “Allah!-there is no god but He!-Lord of the Throne Supreme!”

VI. IS JESUS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD OR NOT?

A. The Bible calls Jesus the only begotten Son of God:

1. John 1:18. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

2. John 3:16. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

B. The Quran claims that Jesus was not the begotten Son of God:

1. 17:111, Say: “Praise be to Allah, Who begets no son, And has no partner In (Him) dominion: Nor (needs) He any To protect Him from humiliation: Yea, magnify Him For His greatness and glory!”

2. 112: 3-4, “He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him.”

VII. IS JESUS BOTH GOD AND MAN OR IS HE MERELY ANOTHER PROPHET?

A. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was both God and man:

1. John 1:1, 14. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. Colossians 2:9. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

B. The Quran teaches that Jesus was a mere man, a mere prophet:

1. 4:171. “O People of the Book! commit no excesses in your religion: nor say Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which is bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers.”

2. 5:75, “Christ, the son of Mary, was no more than a messenger; many more were the messengers that passed away before him.”

VIII. IS JESUS CHRIST ETERNAL OR WAS HE SPOKE INTO EXISTENCE IN THE WOMB OF MARY?

A. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is eternal:

1. Isaiah 9:6. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2. Micah 5:2. But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.”

B. The Quran teaches that Jesus Christ was created in the womb of the virgin Mary:

19:20-21. “She said: ‘How shall I have a son, seeing that No man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?’” He said: ‘(it will be):Thy Lord saith, that is easy for Me: and (We Wish) to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from us’: It is a matter (So) decreed.”

IX. WHERE WAS JESUS BORN? IN A STABLE AND LAID IN A MANGER OR UNDER A PALM TREE?

A. The Bible teaches that Christ was born in a barn then laid in a manger:

Luke 2:10-12. Then an angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

B. The Quran teaches that Christ was born under a palm tree:

19:23. And the pains of child birth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree: She cried (in her anguish): “Ah! Would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!”

X. DID JESUS ACCEPT OR REJECT WORSHIP?

A. The Bible teaches that Christ never rebuked worship given to Him:

1. Matthew 28:9-10. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” and they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see.”

2. Mark 5:6. `But when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped Him.

3. Luke 24:52-53. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

4. JOHN 20:28. Thomas said to him, my Lord and my God!

B. The Quran teaches that Christ refused worship given to Him:

1. 5:116, And behold! Allah will say: “O Jesus [Isa] the son of Mary! Did'st thou say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah? He will say: “Glory to Thee! Never could I say what I had no right (To say). Had I said such a thing, Thou wouldest indeed have known it.”

2. 43:63-54, When Jesus came with clear signs, he said: “Now I have come to you with wisdom, and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) on which ye dispute: therefore fear Allah and obey me. “For Allah, He is my Lord and your Lord: so worship Ye Him: this is a Straight Way.”

XI. WHO DID GOD PUT HIS SEAL ON AS THE FINAL AND GREATEST OF ALL THE PROPHETS?

A. The Bible teaches that God set his seal upon Jesus Christ as the last and greatest of prophets:

1. John 6:27. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.

2. Hebrew 1:1-2. God who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

B. The Quran teaches that Allah set his seal upon Muhammad as the last and greatest of prophets:

33:40. “Muhammad is not the father of any Of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, And the seal of the prophets: And Allah has full knowledge of all things.”

XII. WAS JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED OR NOT?

A. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was crucified upon a cross for the sins of the world:

1. Act 2:23. Him being delivered by the determined counsel and for knowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.

2. 1 Pet 2:24. Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.

B. The Quran teaches that Jesus Christ was not crucified for the sins of the world:

4:157. That they said (in boast), “We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, The Messenger of Allah”- But they killed Him not, nor crucified him, But so it was made to appear to them,

And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for a surety they killed him not.”

XIII. IS JESUS THE INTERCESSOR (MEDIATOR) BETWEEN GOD AND MAN OR IS A BELIEVER TO DIRECT HIS PRAYERS TO ALLAH ALONE?

A. The Bible teaches that believers have an intercessor (mediator) between God and that being Jesus Christ:

1. 1 Tim 2:5. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

2. Hebrews 8:6. But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, in as much as he is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

3. 1 John 2:1. My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

B. The Quran teaches there is no intercessor (mediator) between God and men, there is only God:

1. 7:53. Do they wait for the final fulfillment of the event? On the day the event is finally fulfilled, those who disregarded it before will say: “The Messengers of our Lord did indeed bring true (tidings). Have we no intercessor now to intercede on our behalf?”

2. 6:70. This (truth): that every soul delivers itself to ruin by its own acts; it will find for itself no protector or intercessor except Allah; if it offered every ransom, (or Reparation), none will be accepted; such is (The end of) those who deliver themselves to ruin.

3. 10:3. Verily your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and the earth in six Days. He established Himself on the throne (of authority), regulating and governing all things. No intercessor (can plead with Him) except after His leave (Hath been obtained). This Is Allah your Lord; Him therefore serve ye: will ye not then be of the warned.

4. 39:43, What! Do they take for intercessors others beside Allah? Say: “Even if they have no power whatever And no intelligence?” Say “To Allah belongs exclusively (the right)

to grant) intercession: To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: In the End, it is to Him that ye should be brought back.”

XIV. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? IS HE A PERSON POSSESSING AN INTELLECT, EMOTION, AND A WILL OR IS HE THE ANGEL GABRIEL?

A. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Triune Godhead:

1. He possesses intellect: Isaiah 1:2. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

2. He possesses emotion: Ephesians 4:30. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

3. He has a will: 1 Corinthians 12:11. But one and the same Spirit works all things, distributing to each one individually as He will.

B. The Quran teaches that the Holy Spirit is actually the angel Gabriel:

1. 2:253. To Jesus, the son of Mary, We have clear (Signs), and strengthen him With the Holy Spirit [the angel Gabriel].”

2. 5:110. Then will Allah say: “O Jesus the son of Mary! Recount my favor to thee, and to thy mother. Behold! I strengthened thee with the holy spirit [the angel Gabriel], So thou didst speak to the people in infancy and in maturity.

XV. WHO DID JESUS CHRIST SAY HE WAS SENDING AFTER HIM? THE HOLY SPIRIT OR MUHAMMAD (AHMAD)?

A. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ proclaimed that the Holy Spirit would come after He went to heaven:

1. John 14: 26. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

2. John 15:26. But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

3. John 16:7. Never the less I tell you the truth, it is for your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

B. The Quran teaches that Jesus Christ proclaimed that it was Muhammad who would come after Him:

61:6. And remember, Jesus, The son of Mary, said “O Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the law (which came) before me, and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad [Muhammad].

XVI. HOW ARE MEN SAVED? BY GRACE OR BY HUMAN WORKS OR MERIT?

A. The Bible teaches that one is saved from hell by grace (a free gift of God, Christ’s death on a cross for the sins of the world) and not by any good works done by men:

1. Ephesians 2:8-9. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Titus 3:5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He has saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

B. The Quran teaches that men are saved from hell by their own good works:

1. 25:70. Unless he repents, believes and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evils of such a person into good, and Allah is oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.

2. 40:40. He who works evil will not be requited but by the like thereof: And he who works a righteous deed – whether man or woman – and is a believer such will enter the Garden (of bliss): therein will they have abundance without measure.

XVII. SHOULD MARRIAGE BE MONOGAMOUS OR POIYGAMOUS?

A. The Bible teaches that marriage should be monogamous (one wife)

1. Genesis 2:24. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2. 1 Timothy 3:12. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, ruling their `children and their own houses well.

3. Titus 1:6. For if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

4. Deuteronomy 17:17. He [the king] must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.

B. The Quran teaches that marriage can be polygamous (up to four wives):

4:3. If ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with the orphans, marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four: but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one, or (a captive) that your right hands possess. That will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice.

XVIII. HOW MANY HEAVENS ARE THERE?

A. The Bible teaches three heavens:

1. The sky is heaven: Genesis 1:7, Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

2. The universe is heaven (the stars, moon, sun): Genesis 1:16. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, He made the stars also.

3. The place where God abides is heaven: Matthew 6:9. Our Father in heaven hallowed be Your name.

B. The Quran teaches multiple heavens:

1. 67:3. He Who created the seven heavens one above the other: No want of proportion wilt thou see in the creation of (Allah) Most Gracious, so turn thy visions again: seest thou any flaw.

2. 71:15, See ye not how Allah has created the seven heavens one above another.

XIX. WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT CREATURES ARE THERE IN THE BIBLE AND IN THE QURAN?

A. The Bible teaches that there are:

1. Good Angels: Matthew 25:31. When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

2. Satan: Revelations 12:9. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with Him.

3. Demons: James 2:19. You believe there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!

B. The Quran teaches that there are Angels, Satan, and Jinn but there are no demons:

1. Angels: 2:177. It is not righteous that you turn your faces towards East or West; but it is righteous to believe in Allah and the last day, and the Angels, and the Book and the Messengers.

2. Satan (Iblis): 7:11. It is we who created you and gave you shape; then we bade the angels bow down to Adam; Not so Iblis [Satan]; he refused to be of those who bow down.

3. Jinn: 6:100. Yet they make the Jinn equals with Allah, thou Allah did create the Jinns; And they falsely, having no knowledge, attribute to Him sons and daughters praise and glory be to Him! (for He is) above what they attribute to Him.

XX. IS SATAN A FALLEN ANGEL OR JINN?

A. The Bible teaches that Satan is a fallen angel:

1. Isaiah 14:12. How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the Morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you have weakened the nations!

2. Ezekiel: 28:17. Your head was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground. I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.

B. The Quran teaches that Satan is a fallen Jinn:

7:11. It is We who created you and gave you shape; Then we bade the angels bow down to Adam; Not so Iblis [Satan]; He refused to be of those who bow down. (Allah) said: What prevented thee from bowing down when I commanded thee? He said: I am better than he: Thou didst create me from fire, and him from clay.

XXI. WAS ONE OF NOAH'S SONS SAVED FROM THE FLOOD IN THE ARK OR DID HE DROWN?

THE BIBLE teaches that Noah, his wife, and his sons (and their wives) were saved in the Ark:

Gen 7:7, 13. So Noah, with his sons, and his sons wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ... On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark.

THE QURAN teaches that one of Noah's sons was drowned in the flood:

11:42-43. So the Ark floated with them on the waters (tower) like mountains, And Noah called out to his son, who had separated himself (from the rest): "O my son! Embark with us, and be not with unbelievers!" The son replied: "I will betake myself to some mountain: It will save me from the water." Noah said: "This day nothing can save, from the command of Allah, Any but those on whom He has!" And the waves came between them, and the son was among those overwhelmed in the Flood.

XXII. IS THERE MARRIAGE IN HEAVEN?

THE BIBLE: There is no marriage in heaven:

Matt 22:30. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

1. 36:56. They and their wives shall be in shades, reclining on raised couches [in paradise]. Quran translated into English by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall.

2. 43:70. Enter ye the Garden, ye and your wives, In (beauty and) rejoicing. Quran translated into English by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall.

In conclusion, the apostle Paul states, “But even, if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8). And again He says, “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you may well put up with it (2 Corinthians 11:4).”

Islam teaches, number one, A “different Jesus,” who was no more than a mere man, a prophet among other prophets and nothing more. Here we have, a “different spirit,” who the Muslims say is not the Holy Spirit, (the third person in the Christian Triune Godhead) but rather the “angel Gabriel.” Lastly, Islam presents a “different gospel,” that being the Quran and a works based salvation.

Can I accept the Quran in light of the Bible? My answer is certainly not. Although not mentioned in the Quran itself, Muslims believe that the Bible has been heavily corrupted and that the Quran replaces the Bible.

The Quran attacks the biblical nature and work of the persons of the Godhead, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. It attacks the Biblical doctrine of salvation through grace alone apart from man’s effort to save himself through his own good works. These reasons alone in and of themselves self should open up the eyes of the Christian who decides to read the Quran.

QUIZ: CULT FOUNDERS

1. Jehovah’s Witnesses (the Watchtower)

_____ a. Joseph Smith Jr

_____ c. Charles Taze Russell

_____ b. Judge Rutherford

_____ d. Georg Wilhelm
Friedrich Hegel

2. Christian Science
 _____ a. Ellen G. White _____ c. Mary Baker Eddy
 _____ b. a Brigham Young _____ d. Willie Nelson
3. Unification Church
 _____ a. Rev. Sun Myung Moon _____ c. Moses David Berg
 _____ b. Reverend Al _____ d. Reverend Ike
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
 _____ a. Sir Joseph Banks _____ c. Joseph Smith Jr.
 _____ b. Ezra Taft Benson _____ d. Oliver Cowdery
5. Seventh-Day Adventism
 _____ a. Ellen G. White _____ c. Emma Smith
 _____ b. Mary Baker Eddy _____ d. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
6. The Peoples Temple
 _____ a. Martin Heidegger _____ c. Charles Manson
 _____ b. Patty Hearst _____ d. Jim Jones
7. The World Wide Church of God
 _____ a. Victor Paul Wierwille _____ c. Herbert W. Armstrong
 _____ b. Joseph Tkach _____ d. Garner Ted Armstrong
8. The Branch Davidians
 _____ a. David Koresh _____ c. Claude Vorihon
 _____ b. David Copperfield _____ d. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh
9. Unity School of Christianity
 _____ a. Phineas P. Quimby _____ c. Mark and Elizabeth Prophet
 _____ b. Emma Curtis Hopkins _____ d. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore
10. Eckankar
 _____ a. Eckhart Tolle _____ c. Paul Twitchell
 _____ b. Johann Eck _____ d. Paul McCartney

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