

A Study of
Mormonism
&
The Watch Tower Bible &
Tract Society

Adult Annex Class
December 2004 - February 2005

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Jehovah's Witnesses & Mormonism

Introduction

As an lead in to this class, come prepared to discuss your past interactions with either Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. Sharing what ever experiences you have had, whether successful or not, can help all of us be prepared to interact with 'missionaries' from either of these groups.

I. Why this study?

A. Ground us in the faith

1. What was Jesus' assurance to His audience? John 8:30-32 _____

2. What did the Holy Spirit charge through Peter? 1 Pet 3:15 _____
3. What ensures our proper walk in Christ? Col 2:6-7 _____

4. What should we always be doing? 2 Cor 13:5 _____

B. Recognize error when it presents itself

1. What was Jesus' warning and how did He say we could recognize the threat? Matt. 7:15-16 _____
2. What does John command? Why the warning? 1 John 4:1 _____

3. What did Paul warn Timothy would come about with time? 1 Tim 4:1 _____
4. What is one thing that will destroy one's faith in the truth (and is a major factor today for the organizations in this study)? 1 Tim 6:10 _____
5. What else will destroy true faith and obedience to God (another major factor in the organizations in our study)? Acts 8:9-24 _____

C. Provide tools to undermine the source of the error

1. What was Paul's charge to the Corinthians? 1 Cor 16:13 _____
2. How did Paul deal with the Athenians? Acts 17:16-34 _____

3. What was Paul's custom? Acts 9:20, 13:5, 14:1, 17:1-5, 18:4, 19:8 _____

- a. What was the outcome of these efforts? _____
4. What are your best 'tools'? John 8:32; Eph. 6:10-18 _____

5. What risk does one need to avoid? 1 Tim 6:20-21; Col 2:8 _____
6. What warning did Paul give the Corinthians (note: context different but principle is valid)? 1 Cor 10:12 _____

D. Help those caught up in error to recognize God's truths

1. What might be our attitude when approached? 1 Pet 3:13-14 _____

2. What should be our reaction? Jude 1:3 _____
3. These groups (and individuals) are zealous, but so were the the Jews of the 1st Century. What was Paul's attitude about the Jews of his day? Rom 10:1-4 _____

4. What will help us in dealing with those who are in error? Mat 22:39-40; Rom 13:10 _____

5. How should we conduct our discussions? Col 4:5-6 _____
6. Consider Paul's attitude regarding the gospel. Rom 1:16

II. Considerations for our study

A. Cults

1. Define a cult: _____

2. List some characteristics of a cult:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 - g. _____

B. Respect for Authority

1. What is authority? _____
2. Why does God have this authority? Gen. 1:1; Rom. 1:18-25 _____

3. What are the only two sources of authority in religious matters? Matt. 21:23-27

4. What is the danger of a wrong choice? Matt. 7:21-23 _____

5. To whom has all authority been delegated? Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 1:1-2 _____
6. How did Christ choose to communicate His will? John 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 12:28

7. How do we now **know** the will of God? Eph 3:1-5; 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:13-21

8. Is there a need for continuing revelation? Why or why not? _____

9. What is the test of a prophet of God? Deut. 18:20-22; Jer. 28:9 _____

C. Awareness on our part

1. Language of the follower
2. Interpretation by the follower
3. Nature of the organization

D. Your final test - will handout first class

Jehovah's Witnesses - Historical Overview

I. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society View of Authority

A. Guiding Principles of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society

1. The Bible can not be understood by individuals
 - a. "Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind." *The Watchtower*, October 1, 1967
 - b. What does Paul say? Eph. 3:3-4 _____

 - c. What does Peter say? 2 Pet. 1:12-15; 2 Pet. 3:15-16 _____

 - d. What was Jesus' expectation of men? Mark 7:14; Matt. 22:31-32 _____

2. Authority resides with the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society organization
 - a. "Yet there are some who point, out that the organization has had to make adjustments before, and so they argue: "This shows that we have to make up our own mind on what to believe." This is independent thinking. Why is it so dangerous?"

"Such thinking is an evidence of pride. And the Bible says: "Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling." (Proverbs 16:18) If we get to thinking that we know better than the organization, we should ask ourselves: "

"Where did we learn Bible truth in the first place? Would we know the way of the truth if it had not been for guidance from the organization? Really, can we get along without the direction of God's organization?" No, we cannot!" *The Watchtower*, January 15, 1963
3. Do not let any contrary teaching enter your mind
 - a. "Now what will you do if you are confronted with apostate teaching - subtle reasonings - claiming that what you believe as one of Jehovah's Witnesses is not the truth? For example, what will you do if you receive a letter or some literature, open it, and see right away that it is from an apostate? Will curiosity cause you to read it, just to see what he has to say? You may say... if we have the truth, we have nothing to fear. The truth will stand the test. In thinking this way, some have fed their minds upon apostate reasoning and have fallen prey to serious questioning and doubt." *The Watchtower*, March 15, 1986

- b. What did Jesus say? John 8:31-32 _____

 - c. For what were the Bereans commended? Acts 17:11 _____

 - d. What was Paul's charge? 1 Thess. 5:19-22 _____

4. The Bible is not sufficient
- a. "Not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the "Scripture Studies" aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years - if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the "Scripture Studies" with their references and had not read a page of the Bible as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the scriptures." *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1910
 - b. What did Peter say? 2 Pet. 1:3 _____

 - c. What did Jude claim? Jude 3 _____

 - d. What was Paul's warning? Gal. 1:6-9 _____

5. Studying the Bible on its own is dangerous to your spiritual health
- a. "They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusive, either alone, or in small groups at home. But strangely, through such Bible reading, they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago." *The Watchtower*, August 15, 1981
 - b. What did Paul tell Timothy? 2 Tim. 3:15-17 _____

B. Nineteenth Century Roots in 'Second Adventism'

1. The roots of the Jehovah's Witnesses are found in the development of the Millerite Adventists .
 - a. Speculation over the specific time for the return of Christ since 1st century
 - b. In 1800's a new breed of popular prophecy speculation began using the prophetic books of the Old Testament (especially Daniel) & Revelation.
 - c. William Miller first prognosticator to receive a wide audience

- d. He and his followers adhered to six distinguishing doctrines:¹
 - (1) No hell, or punishment, for the wicked
 - (2) No conscious existence after death.
 - (3) The destiny of man is everlasting life on earth.
 - (4) The end of the world is nearly here.
 - (5) After Jesus came he would judge the world, resurrect those in the grave, and renovate the earth to sinless perfection.
 - (6) His second coming would be about April 18, 1844 at the latest.

C. Doctrinal Roots in Arianism

- 1. Arius: 280-360 A.D.
 - a. Presbyter in Alexandria
 - b. Developed a group of followers, called Arians
- 2. Basic issue - deity of Christ
 - a. Taught Jesus had a beginning
 - b. Creature called into existence by God
 - c. Taught Christ is a subordinate, secondary, created god
- 3. This view of Christ shared by the Jehovah's Witnesses
 - a. Jehovah's Witnesses do differ on other Arius teachings
- 4. Arianism led to the Nicene Council (325 A.D.)

II. Jehovah's Witnesses' Creation & Founder

A. Charles Taze Russell (1879-1916)

- 1. Born 1852 in Allegheny Pennsylvania to Presbyterian parents
- 2. By 15 he had joined Congregational Church
 - a. Doctrines of predestination and eternal punishment led to him becoming a skeptic
 - b. Following the "Great Disappointment" of Miller a multitude of smaller groups persisted
- 3. At 16, Charles Russell came in contact with these groups (1868)
 - a. Disillusioned with teachings (creeds) of the formal denominations
- 4. Organized Bible study group of six members (1870-76); elected "Pastor"

¹ Unless otherwise noted, historical material adapted from Maurice Barnett, *Jehovah's Witnesses*

B. Creation of the Jehovah's Witnesses Movement

1. Partnership with Nelson H. Barbour
 - a. The *Herald of the Morning*
2. Published *Three Worlds or Plan of Redemption* (1877)
 - a. "This book set forth their belief that Christ's second presence began invisibly in the fall of 1874 and thereby commenced a forty—year harvest period. Then, remarkably accurately, they set forth the year 1914 as the end of the Gentile times... ." ²
3. In 1879 publishes "Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence" magazine. This is the predecessor to their present magazine.

C. Early Development

1. Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society formed - 1881
2. Began proposed 7 volume series of doctrinal studies, *Millennial Dawn*, 1886. Later changed to *Studies in the Scriptures*
3. Congregations being organized all over the world - 1889
4. Headquarters in Allegheny, Pennsylvania established - 1889
5. Property purchased in Brooklyn NY in 1908 and would become the World HQ of the Society
 - a. Originally "The Brooklyn Tabernacle"; later "Bethel"

III. Jehovah's Witnesses Succession of Leaders

A. Charles T. Russell (1879-1916)

1. Early history
2. Wife - Maria Frances Ackley (1879)
 - a. No children
 - b. Active in the Watchtower Society
 - c. Separated in 1897; sued for divorce in 1913
3. Involved in several law suits and fraudulent claims
 - a. 3000 sermons allegedly given worldwide 1909-14
 - b. "Miracle wheat"

² *Qualified to be Ministers*

- c. Russell vs. Ross (libel)
- 4. Prolific writer regardless of Jehovah's Witnesses claims about Russell's work
- 5. Completed six books of the intended seven book series - *Studies in the Scriptures*

B. Joseph F. ("Judge") Rutherford (1916-1942)

- 1. Early history
 - a. Born 1869 of Baptist parents
 - b. Practiced law and occasionally served as substitute judge (hence title)
 - c. Joined Watchtower Society in 1906 and became legal counselor
 - d. Responsible for purchase of Brooklyn site, current HQ of Jehovah's Witnesses
- 2. Became Watchtower Society president 1917
- 3. Produced seventh volume of the *Studies in the Scriptures* series
 - a. The Fall of Babylon extract
 - b. Led to government action
- 4. Anti-war sentiments and their effect
- 5. *The Golden Age*
- 6. Publishing increases greatly
- 7. Shift of focus - 'witnessing' and placing of literature
- 8. Purchase of "Beth Sarim" property - 1929
 - a. To be home of the 'ancient princes', Abraham, etc.
 - b. In the meantime home of Rutherford
- 9. Jehovah's Witnesses name - 1931 (Isaiah 43:10)
- 10. Organizational restructuring & centralization of control
- 11. Distributing free materials begins - 1940
- 12. Continued policy of neutrality in WWII
- 13. Legal difficulties of the "Judge"
 - a. Conviction for sedition - 1918
 - b. Olin Moyle case
- 14. Death and Legacy - 1942

C. Nathan H. Knorr (1942-1977)

- 1. Early history
 - a. Born 1905 - member of Reformed Church

- b. Associated with Jehovah's Witnesses congregation at 16
 - c. Full time preacher at 18
- 2. Early career
- 3. Became Watchtower Society president in 1942
- 4. Expanded training programs
 - a. Gilead Watchtower Bible School
 - b. "Theocratic ministry schools" in every Jehovah's Witnesses congregation
- 5. The "Kingdom Farm" - Ithaca NY
- 6. Doctrinal works of Russell and Rutherford replaced
 - a. No longer were doctrinal books published by an individual
 - b. The replacements:
 - (1) *The Truth Shall Make You Free*
 - (2) *Let God Be True*
 - (3) *Make Sure of All Things*
 - (4) *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*
- 7. The New World Translation
- 8. Foreign expansion
- 9. Real Estate holding changes
- 10. Other changes

D. Frederick W. ("Freddy") Franz (1977-1992)

- 1. Early history
 - a. Born 1893
 - b. Planned to become Presbyterian preacher
 - c. Noted by Jehovah's Witnesses as a "scholar"
- 2. Early career
 - a. Became "pioneer" member of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1913
 - b. Became member of the Bethel family in Brooklyn in 1920
 - c. Vice-president until death of Knorr
- 3. Responsible for the New World Translation 'scholarship'
 - a. Widely held to be his translation
 - b. Trial proves not a Greek or Hebrew scholar
- 4. Oldest to serve as president of the Watchtower Society - died in 1992 at 99
 - a. 'Anointed' class disappearing

E. Milton G. Henschel (1993 - 2000)

1. Early history
 - a. Born 1920
 - b. Began Jehovah's Witnesses door to door at 9
 - c. Full time "minister" in 1934
2. Early career
 - a. Began work at Jehovah's Witnesses HQ
 - b. Secretary to the Watchtower Society president, Knorr in 1947
3. Presidency began in 1993 and ceased before his death in reorganization
4. Called tissue transplants "cannibalism"
5. Died in 2003
 - a. The '144,000' remnant continue disappearing

Jehovah's Witnesses - Organizational Character

I. God's Organization

A. The 'Universal' Organization (Church) of the Bible

1. Who is head of this 'organization'? Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20; Eph. 1:20-23, 5:23-24 ____

2. Who are the members of this 'organization'? Acts 2:41, 47; Heb. 12:23 _____

B. The 'Local' Organization (Church) of the Bible

1. What is the organization of a local church? Phil. 1:1, 27, 4:15; 1 Cor.1:2, 10 _____

2. Is there any other organization established in the New Testament for carrying out the work Christ has assigned to the church? _____

II. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Organization

Note: The Society claims that their organization is like the first century Christians had. From the Scotland Trial, 1954 (suit brought by a Jehovah's Witnesses member to avoid being drafted into the National Service; emphasis mine):

Q. Do you regard the organization and operation of the body known as Jehovah's Witnesses as modeled in any way upon Scripture itself?

A. Yes, we do. We feel that it is modeled precisely upon the Scriptures and is identical with the primitive church.

Q. In what way in general do you identify your organization with that of the primitive church?

A. To begin with, the early Church of Christ was a door to door preaching organization and house to house ministry group. In addition to that it had a government. The government of that church was first by the Lord Jesus Christ and associated with him were the twelve apostles. Then, of course after His death the apostles continued to reside at Jerusalem and they were considered as the governing Body of the Church. The Church at Jerusalem, the apostles and elders there in Jerusalem, were considered to be the governing body of the Church. I believe they were about 70 in number." H.C. Covington, Society Legal Counsel, Scotland Trial (p. 302)

A. Organizational Names

1. Adventist(s)
2. Bible Students
3. International Bible Students Association
4. Jehovah's Witnesses
5. People's Pulpit Association
6. Second Adventist(s)
7. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.
8. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society

B. Organizational Structure(pre-2001)

1. Governing Body
2. Board of Directors
3. Publishers and Pioneers
4. Congregations
5. Circuits
6. Districts
7. Branch
8. Zone

C. Hierarchy of Members³

1. Branch Servant: The Branch Servant is over an entire nation, or a group of small nations.
2. District Servant: Appointed by the President, he is subject to the Branch Servant. His district covers approximately 26 circuits, which is usually two to three states.
3. Circuit Servant: The Circuit Servant is appointed by the President and is subject to the District Servant. The number of congregations under him in a Circuit may vary from 8 to 24.
4. Congregational Servants: Fully organized, seven overseers exist in each Kingdom Hall.
 - a. Congregational Servant: Has the spiritual and administrative charge of the

³ Maurice Barnett, *Jehovah's Witnesses*

congregation.

- b. Assistant Congregational Servant:
 - c. Territory: Has charge of all territory assignments, maps them, and sees that they are evenly covered.
 - d. Book and Magazine: He takes care of all book and magazine orders and distribution. He is responsible for the money received.
 - e. Ministry School: Has charge of the training school in the congregation. The meeting is held once each week.
 - f. Area Study Conductor: Has charge of the Area Study, usually held on Friday nights. A study for members and non-members alike.
 - g. Bible Study: He is also called the "Back Call Servant." He arranges for back calls (return visits to a home) and "Bible Studies."
5. Pioneers These are special persons set apart in the ministry of JW's. Both men and women may serve here. There are two classifications:
- a. Special Pioneer
 - b. General Pioneer
6. Congregational Publisher: This is the rank and file member, the low rung on the ladder. You become one after going through "seven steps," culminating in baptism as a dedication.

D. Major Reorganization of 2000

- 1. Originally board of directors of the Watchtower Society were identical to the Governing Body
- 2. Expanded Governing Body - 1970
- 3. Major reorganization in 2000
 - a. Separation of Governing Body from legal entities
 - b. Three new corporations setup to run U.S. operations.
 - (1) Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
 - (2) Religious Order of Jehovah's Witnesses
 - (3) Kingdom Support Services, Inc.
 - c. Governing Body to oversee only religious affairs
- 4. Change likely prompted by legal challenges

III. Size & Growth

A. Membership

1. Active members
 - a. 100 in 1881
 - b. Grown to ~3 million by 1985
 - c. Currently claim 6.4 million active members⁴

Annual Worldwide Statistics	
Attendance at the annual Memorial of Christ's death	16,097,622
Total volunteer hours spent in public Bible educational work	1.2 billion
Average weekly home Bible courses taught	5,726,509
Practicing members*	6,429,351
New members baptized	258,845
Increase over 2002	2.2 percent
Branch offices	109
Congregations	95,919
* While other religious groups count their membership by occasional or annual attendance, this figure reflects only those who are actively involved in the public Bible educational work.	

2. Worldwide - 232 countries⁵
 - a. 19% in the U.S.
 - b. 20% in Western Europe
 - c. 25% in Latin America.
 - d. 18 countries exceed U.S. membership rates, including Canada, Mexico, Finland, and New Zealand, to name a few.

B. Publications

1. *The Watchtower*, the primary Bible study aid for members
2. *Awake!*, is a general-interest news magazine with a religious slant
3. *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* is the introductory textbook used extensively in the home Bible study program of Jehovah's Witnesses.

⁴ www.jw-media.org/people/statistics.htm

⁵ *Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches 1997*

4. Other Publications
 - a. *New World Translation*, Bible encyclopedias, concordances, and study guides
 - b. Videos and Audio cassettes

IV. Scholastic Dishonesty - The New World Translation

A. Brief history

1. Variety of versions used/distributed by Jehovah's Witnesses over time
 - a. KJV
 - b. Translations of Leeser; Murdock,
 - c. The Newberry Bible; Tischendorf's New Testament
 - d. Variorum Bible; Young's literal translation
2. Society arranged for publication of versions under its own imprint
 - a. J B Rotherham's The New Testament Newly Translated and Critically Emphasized (1890)
 - b. Holman Linear Parallel Edition of the Bible (1902)
 - c. Emphatic Diaglott (1902)
3. Society began printing, binding and selling from factory at Brooklyn (1926)
 - a. The Emphatic Diaglott
4. Acquired the printing plates for the KJV from the Holman Company (1942)
5. Gained rights to publish the 1901 ASV (1944)
6. The Bible in Living English acquired in 1951 and published in 1972

B. Translation of the New World Translation

1. Jehovah's Witnesses claimed all versions in use defective
 - a. "...inconsistencies or unsatisfactory renderings, infected with sectarian traditions or worldly philosophies, and hence not in full harmony with the sacred truths that Jehovah has recorded in his Word" (*All Scripture is Inspired of God and Beneficial*, p. 323).
2. Translated by "a committee of anointed witnesses of Jehovah"
 - a. Originally released in six volumes beginning in 1950
 - b. Entire Bible "translated" and published in one volume in 1961
3. The Translation Committee
 - a. Jehovah's Witnesses unwilling to divulge names or scholarly credentials

- b. Known in spite of refusal to divulge
 - (1) Frederick W. Franz ((then vice -president of the Jehovah's Witnesses)
 - (2) Nathan H. Knorr (then president of the Jehovah's Witnesses)
 - (3) Milton Henschel (future president of the Jehovah's Witnesses)
 - (4) Albert D. Schroeder & George D. Gangas
- c. Franz was principle translator
 - (1) Only one with any Greek educational training and it was rudimentary
 - (2) 1954 Scotland trial exposed his inadequacy
- 4. Rejected as an accurate translation by majority of Bible scholars
 - a. Example: "Dr J R Mantey "A shocking mistranslation. Obsolete and incorrect. It is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 "The Word was a god.""
 - b. Example: Dr Bruce M. Metzger - "A frightful mistranslation. Erroneous, pernicious, reprehensible. If the Jehovah's Witnesses take this translation seriously, they are polytheists."

C. Other Books

- 1. The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures (1969)
- 2. The Comprehensive Concordance of the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1973)

V. Inspiration (as claimed by the Jehovah's Witnesses)

A. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society as "God's Organization"

- 1. Members must listen to the Society
 - a. Claims to be the "faithful and wise (discreet - NWT) servant" (Matt. 24:45)
 - (1) "Some people might be inclined to inquire as to why any should desire to accompany Pastor Russell on such a trip, any more than some other man. Our reason was, we have FAITH that the Lord has returned, that HE is the CHIEF REAPER in this "Harvest," that HE has been supervising the work, for now about thirty-seven years; and that HE has placed Pastor Russell in charge of the work this side the veil. We are glad therefore to recognize him as "that servant", spoken of by the Lord; glad to recognize that the work he is doing is the work the Lord has appointed him to do, and we are glad to co-operate with him and be associated with him as much as possible." Foreword of 1911 Jehovah's Witnesses Convention
 - (2) "Thousands of the readers of Pastor Russell's writings believed that he fulfilled that office of (the faithful and discreet slave)... His modesty and humility precluded him from openly claiming this, but he admitted as much

in private conversation. *The Watchtower*, December 1, 1916 p. 357

(3) "All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave," *The Watchtower*, 10/1/94; p. 8.

(4) "We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the 'faithful and discreet slave' organization." *The Watchtower*, 2/15/81, page 19.

b. Claimed in past to be "the governing authorities" (Rom. 13.1ff)

c. Final authority for spiritual food

d. To accept other authority results in disfellowship

1. What event is Matt. 24:1-35 addressing? _____
2. Who asked the question of Jesus in vs. 3? (Cmp. Mark 13) _____

3. Whether one believes Matt. 24:36ff is discussing the same event or the 2nd coming of Christ, what is the point to His disciples in this section? _____

4. **IF** Russell or the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society were the 'faithful' slave, how could one easily confirm or disprove it based upon historical events since making the claim? _____

B. Controlled by God

1. The "Living God, Jehovah" is the director of the organization⁶
 - a. "No group of men, no clergy, no pope, no hierarchy, no council controls the society"
2. God's sole channel for flow of truth
 - a. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses, identifies itself as God's "sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth" in these last days (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 1960, p. 439).
 - b. "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the Glad Tidings" (*The Watch Tower*, 1917, p. 22, quoted in *Studies in the Scriptures*, VII, p. 144).
 - c. "Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do. (*The Watchtower*, December 1, 1981)

⁶ *Watchtower*, November 1, 1956

C. How the Witnesses interpret the Scriptures (Generally)

1. In general, the interpretative issues may be summarized as follows:
 - a. Taking verses out of their immediate context.
 - b. Refusing to read verses in the entire biblical context.
 - c. Inserting their theological presuppositions into the text.
 - d. Altering the Biblical text to suit their needs.
 - e. Latching onto one verse to interpret a host of others.
 - f. Changing the meanings of words.
 - g. Proclaiming some passages to be figurative when they contradict their doctrines.
 - h. Adding to the Word of God.
2. Additionally, the Witnesses require of its members regular and frequent weekly attendance at their "Bible Study" meetings where they are repeatedly indoctrinated.

D. Interpretation and settling of doctrine

1. It is claimed that Bible translations and interpretations emanate from God.
 - a. "They are passed to the Holy Spirit who invisibly communicates with Jehovah's Witnesses -- and the publicity department" according to F.W. Franz, Vice-President of the Watchtower Society (Scottish Daily Express, Nov. 24, 1954).
 - b. From the Scotland Trial of 1954 (Fred Franz as witness)

Who is responsible for the interpretation in case of doubt, or in general, of scriptural writings for the guidance of Jehovah's Witnesses?	We believe that Jehovah God who is the author and inspirer of the Bible is the one who makes the interpretations. He is his own interpreter. He does this by the use of his invisible active force the Holy Spirit operating upon the minds of his Witnesses upon this earth , and he causes events to come to pass in the earth which are in fulfillment of his prophetic word and which, therefore, throw light upon the true significance of his word.
That is very helpful, but it does not quite meet the point I was making. What I wanted you to tell me was whether you can say how the Biblical texts are authoritatively interpreted; who is the interpreter?	Jehovah God is the interpreter, but he guides his people upon this earth, and in this case the editorial committee of the Society , they study the Scriptures continually, and they examine and reexamine the evidence as it appears, and under this Divine guidance with the help of the Holy Spirit they arrive at the understanding of the Scripture.

Is that understanding promulgated to Jehovah's Witnesses through the authority of the President and Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society?	Yes. That is accepted as authoritative , and Jehovah's Witnesses throughout the world will refer to the publications of the Society as settling the issues in any discussion of these subjects.
And we shall hear how that Society is formed and ordered. Is that regarded by Jehovah's Witnesses as the visible agency which Jehovah God is using at the present time?	Yes.
To conduct and direct the work which he wishes done on earth today?	Yes.
That is your belief?	Yes.
Is it for that reason that Jehovah's Witnesses accept without question doctrines and Biblical Interpretations as expounded by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society through Its Directors?	Yes.
In publications both periodical and in book form?	Yes.
Issued by and with the authority of the President and Directors of that Society?	Yes.

2. Claims to be God's prophet

- a. "So does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet...This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses...Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a 'prophet' of God. It is another thing to prove it." *The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197

3. Jehovah's Witnesses members can not understand the Bible without the Society

- a. From the Scotland Trial of 1954 (Fred Franz as witness)

A witness has no alternative, has he, to accept as authoritative and to be obeyed instructions issued in "The Watchtower" or "The Informant" or "Awake"?	He must accept those.
Is there any hope of salvation for a man who depends upon his Bible alone when he is in a situation in the world where he cannot get the tracts and publications of your incorporation?	He is dependent upon the Bible.
Will he be able to interpret it truly?	No.

4. Jehovah's Witnesses members are obligated to follow the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society interpretation
 - a. To do otherwise is reason for disfellowship
5. Obligated to accept it even if it is known error!
 - a. The Society admits to holding to error, and propagating it, in the past, but all must still accept it when taught
 - b. From the Scotland Trial of 1954 (Fred Franz & H.C. Covington, the General Counsel as witness)

Franz's Testimony

Am I right that the Board of Directors of the Society, in issuing their authoritative interpretation of Scripture seek to apply the interpretation not only to countries but to dates?	Yes.
And that Judge Rutherford took the view that men came upon this earth in 4025 B.C.?	4124 B.C.
What is the present view?	One hundred years have been taken off.
What was Pastor Russell's view?	Pastor Russell had an extra one hundred years in there.
So that that date has been altered three times, has it?	The date has been corrected.
But once the date was published by the Society all Jehovah's Witnesses were bound to accept it as scripturally true?	Yes.
And liable to be disfellowshipped if they demurred to the date?	If they caused trouble over it, because the Scriptures say that if anyone is a disturber inside the congregation he is hindering the growth of the congregation and its activities and should be disfellowshipped.

Covington's Testimony

Assume from me that it was promulgated as authoritative by the Society that Christ's Second Coming was in 1874?	Taking that assumption as a fact, it is ,a hypothetical statement.
That 'was the publication of false prophesy?	That was the publication of ~ false prophesy, it was a false statement or an erroneous statement in fulfillment of a prophesy that'was false or erroneous.

And that had to be believed by the, whole of Jehovah's Witnesses?	Yes, because you must understand we must have "unity, we cannot have disunity with a lot of people going every way, an army is supposed to march in step.
Back to the point now. A false prophesy, as promulgated?	I agree to that.
It had to be accepted by Jehovah's Witnesses?	That is correct.
If a member of Jehovah's Witnesses took the view himself that that prophesy was wrong and said so he would be disfellowshipped?	Yes, if he said so and kept persisting in creating trouble, because if the whole organization believes one thing, even though it be erroneous, and somebody else starts on his own trying to put his ideas across then there is disunity and trouble, there cannot be harmony, there cannot be marching together. When a change comes it should come from the proper source, the head of the organization, the governing body, not from the bottom upwards, because everybody would have ideas, and the organization would disintegrate and go in a thousand different directions. Our purpose is' to have unity.
Unity at all costs?	Unity at all costs, because we believe and are sure, that Jehovah God is using our organisation, the governing body of our organisation to direct it, even though mistakes are made from time to time.
A unity based upon an enforced acceptance of false prophecy?	That is conceded to be true.
And the person who expressed his view, as you say, that it was wrong, and was disfellowshipped, would be in breach of the Covenant, if he, was baptised?	That is correct.
And as you said yesterday expressly, would be worthy of death?	I think...
Would you say yes or no?	I will answer yes, unhesitatingly.

1. Who has all authority according to scripture; where? _____
2. What did He promise in John 13-16 and to whom did He promise it; where? _____

3. Did the possession of the gifts (i.e. prophecies, interpretations, etc.) of the Holy Spirit ever cease? Acts 8:14-18 _____

4. What was the outcome? (Jude 3; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) _____

5. What warning did Paul give the Galatian church in Gal. 1? _____

Jehovah's Witnesses - Prophetic Speculation

I. "God's Prophets"?

A. Jehovah's Witnesses' claims

1. "However, Jehovah did not let the people of Christendom, as led by the clergy, go without being warned that the League was a counterfeit substitute for the real kingdom of God. He had a "prophet" to warn them. This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses. They are still proclaiming a warning, and have been joined and assisted in their commissioned work by hundreds of thousands of persons who have listened to their message with belief. Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. **The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?**" *The Watchtower*, 4/1/72, p. 197.
2. "Consider, too, the fact that **Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force.** Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book. *The Watchtower*, 7/1/73.

B. Test of a true prophet

1. What is the test of a true prophet? Deut. 18:21-22 _____

2. What was Jesus' warning in Matt. 7:15ff? _____
3. Does God lie? Titus 1:2 _____
4. What are men to do when confronted with 'prophetic utterances'? 1 Thess. 5:19-22

5. Even Mormon leadership agree with those definitions and conduct of a prophet. LDS President Ezra Taft Benson, the 13th LDS Prophet, stated:
"The ultimate test of a true prophet is when he speaks in the name of the Lord, his words come to pass" (*Deseret News*, October 6, 1981, p. 6a)

II. "God's Prophets" Prophecies

Note: Included in this section are a number of quotes from Jehovah's Witnesses' publications, all of which, **at the time**, were approved by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's Governing Body, the 'faithful and discreet slave', the 'channel of communication' from God, and 'God's prophet'. Try to follow the trail; it can be confusing. The question - what can one conclude about the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society from these prophecies?

A. Some of the bases used for dating

1. Dating from creation
 - a. Initially based on Russell's chronology of 4128 BC
 - b. Later appears largely based on Bishop Usher's chronology (4026 BC)
 - c. 6000 years after creation would be the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ
 - d. Methodologies used by Jehovah's Witnesses not consistent, but similar
 - (1) Each day was to represent 1000 years
 - (2) Therefore 6000 years for man's existence and the 7th day was God's, which is viewed as the period of the 1000 year reign.
 - (a) Now seem to look at 7th day as a 7000 year period, 6000 years of which account for man's time on earth before the 'millennial reign'.
2. Overthrow of the Ostogothic monarchy (539 AD)
3. Removal of Zedekiah by Nebuchadnezzar began the "time of the Gentiles" (607 BC per Jehovah's Witnesses)
 - a. This date would be the lynchpin for the prophecy of Christ's return in 1914.

B. 1914 - Setting up of the kingdom of God - "Logic" for the date 1914

1. Beginning of the 'appointed times of the Gentiles' (Luke 21:24; 2 Kings 24:18-25:12)
 - (1) The "appointed times of the nations" indicated a period in which there would be no representative government of Jehovah on earth, such as the kingdom of Israel was; but the Gentile nations would dominate the earth.⁷
 - (2) "God's earthly nation or kingdom ended when a pagan king destroyed Jerusalem. This pagan king was Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The king of Babylon took Zedekiah off "Jehovah's throne" in the year 607 B.C. and laid his city and territory desolate. So that year God's earthly kingdom ended. And that year, 607 B.C., the "appointed times of the nations" began." *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Gained*, p. 171,172
- a. What event is under discussion in Luke 21:24? (Matt. 24; Luke 21:20) _____

⁷Gruss, Edmond C., *The Jehovah's Witnesses & Prophetic Speculation*

- b. How can one know that this is not in reference to the overthrow of Zedekiah? _____
- c. The battle of Carchemish took place in 605 BC. Who was on the throne of Judah at the time? (Jer. 46:2) _____
- d. Is it possible that 'The king of Babylon took Zedekiah off "Jehovah's throne" in the year 607 B.C.? How do you know? _____
2. Ending of the "appointed times of the nations" (by "prophetic math" of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society)
- a. The "math" basis - Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 4:4ff)
- (1) "The prophetic dream disclosed a great tree which grew from the earth and reached to heaven and furnished food and shelter to all creatures. Suddenly a holy one from heaven commanded: "Hew down the tree, . . . nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, . . . and let seven times pass over him." *Let God Be True*, p.251
- b. "Interpreting" the dream
- (1) "Seven times" meant seven literal years in the case of Nebuchadnezzar, deprived of his throne. The seven years were equal to 84 months, or, Scripturally allowing 30 days for each month, 2,520 days. At Revelation 12:6, 14, there are 1,260 days mentioned and described as a "time, and times, and half a time," or 3½ times. Seven times would be twice 1,260 days, or 2,520 days. *Let God Be True*, p.251. 252
- (2) The 2,520 days are to be understood as years. "By his faithful prophet Ezekiel Jehovah said: 'I have appointed thee each day for a year.' (Ezekiel 4:6) By applying this divine rule the 2,520 days mean 2,520 years." *Let God Be True*, p.252
- c. The "obvious conclusion" of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- (1) Since God's typical kingdom with its capital at Jerusalem ceased to exist in the autumn of 607 BC, then by counting the appointed times from that date, the 2,520 years extend to the autumn of AD 1914. *Let God Be True*, p.252
- d. Claim that conclusion "supported" by Jesus' statements regarding events to occur during the last days, e.g. wars, earthquakes, etc. in the gospel accounts (Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)
3. What are some of the more obvious problems with the "math" of the Jehovah's Witnesses?
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

B. Prophecies concerning the period 1799-1874

1. **1799:** "Time of the end" began in 1799 when Napoleon was in Egypt
 - a. End of 1260 days of Rev 12. Start of "the last days". *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* (1877), p114.
 - b. Start of "the last days". Napoleon debased the pope and ended the 1260 days of Dan 7:25; 12:7; Rev 11:1-3. *The Watchtower* Jan-Feb 1889 [repr p1093]. *Studies in the Scriptures II* p256. *Studies in the Scriptures III* p58,63,64 (Replaced by 1914 in 1930)
 - c. "In Biblical symbology a time means a year of twelve months of thirty days each, or 360 days. Each day is considered for a year Here are mentioned, then, three and a half times of 360 prophetic days each, or a total of 1260 prophetic days, equal to 1260 years. The Prophet then was shown that 1260 years would mark the beginning of the time of the end of this beastly order. Twelve—hundred sixty years from A.D. 539 brings us to 1799 — another proof that 1799 marks the beginning of the 'time of the end.' This also shows that it is from the date 539 A.D. that the other prophetic days of Daniel must be counted." *Harp of God*, 1921, pp. 229—230.
 - (1) All of this is now rejected by the Witnesses, and most of them are completely unaware of the existence of such teaching. To arrive at 1874 as the time of the Second Coming, see 1874 comments below.
2. **1829:** End of the 1290 years (from 539AD) of Daniel 12:11, when Miller's movement started. *Studies in the Scriptures III* p84, *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p40, 60, 163. *Our Lord's Return* (1929) p27. (Abandoned in 1930)
3. **1844:** Miller's "end of the world." To Russell, start of 30 year "tarrying time," corresponding to 30 years from Jesus' birth to his baptism. *Studies in the Scriptures II* p240 (Abandoned in 1930)
4. **1846:** End of the 2300 days, G. Storrs and others abandoned false doctrines, "sanctuary cleansed". Also start of "evangelical alliance" between protestant churches, called "spiritistic". *Studies in the Scriptures III* p108, *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p163. (Abandoned in 1930)
5. **1873:** 6000 years of human existance ends, start of seventh millenium: THE millenium of Revelation; the Day of the Lord. See *Studies in the Scriptures II* foreword, p39. (New chronology making 1975 the end of 6000 years was adopted in 1943, but 1975 was not made an official prophetic date until 1966, with *Life Everlasting - in Freedom of the Sons of God.*) (Abandoned in 1930)
 - a. "In this chapter we present the Bible evidence which indicates that six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with A.D. 1872; and hence that, since A.D. 1872 are chronologically entered upon the seventh thousand or the Millennium." *Studies in the Scriptures II*, p. 33.
6. **1874:** The start of Christ's invisible presence. Russell's most important date. *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* p175, *Studies in the Scriptures II* p170, *Our*

Lord's Return p27, *Jehovah's Witnesses - Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* p133 footnote. Until around 1904, Russell taught that this year marked the start of the Battle of Armageddon, *The Watchtower* 1/15/92 p21-3 [repr p1355]. *Studies in the Scriptures II*, p101. (Abandoned in 1930)

- a. "Here we furnish the evidence that from the creation of Adam to (but not including) A.D. 1873 was six thousand years. And though the Bible contains no direct statement that the seventh thousand will be the epoch of Christ's reign, the great Sabbath Day of restitution to the world, yet the venerable tradition is not without a reasonable foundation." *Studies in the Scriptures II*, p. 39.
- b. "The most important thing to which all the prophecies point and for which the apostles looked forward has been the second coming of the Lord. It is described by the Prophet as a blessed time. Daniel then says: 'Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.' (Daniel 12:12). The watchers here, without question are those who were instructed by the Lord to watch for his return. This date, therefore, when understood, would certainly fix the time when the Lord is due at his second appearing. Applying the same rule, then, of a day for a year, 1335 days after 539 A.D. brings us to A.D. 1874, at which time, according to Biblical chronology, the Lord's second presence is due. If this calculation is correct, from that time forward we ought to be able to find some evidences marking the Lord's presence." *Harp of God*, 1921, p. 230.
- c. "If, then, the seventh thousand—year period of earth's history be an epoch specially noted as the period of Christ's reign, we shall by showing that it began in 1873, be proving that we are already in it." *Studies in the Scriptures II*, p. 40.

C. Prophecies concerning the period 1875-1918

1. **1875:** End of "Great Jubilee Cycle." End of 1335 days in Dan 12:12. The invisible resurrection of the saints started. (Note also that Russell held that the "Biblical year" 1875 started Oct 1874.) *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* p108.
2. **1878:** End of gospel age, the rapture of the saints. *Three Worlds and the Harvest of This World* p68; *Jehovah's Witnesses - Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* p632; *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Divine Purpose* p19. (Naturally abandoned after 1878)
3. **1878:** Heavenly resurrection of dead saints. God's favor returning to the Jews. Kingdom of God started to exercise power. *The Watchtower* Oct 1879 [repr p39]. *Studies in the Scriptures II* p101. *Studies in the Scriptures VI*, p663. *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* (1920) p27-8. 1928 editions of *The Harp of God* had removed this date from the text (see pp236, 244 in earlier editions). (Abandoned in 1928)
 - a. Three and a half years after his second presence, in 1874, Jesus was to assume the title and power of King. This would be 1878. Rutherford claimed that forty years, from 1878 to 1918, would be the time of harvest. (Russell made the forty year harvest from 1874-1914). This was estimated on a supposed parallel with the work of the Lord, the time of his ascension, and the destruction of the Jewish state.

- (1) "The Scriptures disclose a complete parallel concerning the Jewish and gospel ages. The parallel exists with reference to time as well as events. The Jewish age ended with a harvest, which harvest began with the ascension of our Lord in the year A.D. 33. By the term 'harvest' here used is meant the gathering of the remnant of the Jews to Christ. Jesus' statement plainly is that the gospel age will end with a harvest, during which time he would be present, directing the work of that harvest. In the earth three and a half years from the time of his consecration and baptism, Jesus was preparing the Jews for the harvest of that age. We should expect to find a parallel of this reference to the harvest of the gospel age, and we do find it. Counting three and a half years from 1874, the time of his presence, brings us to 1878. During the presence of the Lord from 1874 to 1878 he was making preparation for the harvest of the gospel age. The Jewish harvest covered a period of forty years, ending in A.D. 73. We should expect, then, the general harvest of the gospel age to end in 1918." *Harp of God*, pp. 235—236.
 - (2) "Until 1878 the nominal church had been in a sense God's sanctuary or temple; but He was from then on, culminating in 1918, to remove it with a stroke or plague of erroneous doctrines and deeds Divinely permitted." *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p. 484.
 - (3) "Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of 'Christianity'". *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p. 485.
4. **1881:** Rapture of the saints, including Russell and other Bible Students. *The Watchtower* Jan 1881 [repr p180], Dec 1880 [repr p172], compare May 1881 [repr p224]. (Abandoned and even denied from May 1881)
 5. **1881:** Close of "high calling" to be among 144,000. Fall of Babylon. *Jehovah's Witnesses - Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* p632. (Replaced by 1918 in 1922?. Close of "high calling" later moved to 1935)
 6. **1910:** Expected rapture of the Saints, based on measurements in corridor in the Great Pyramid of Geza. *Studies in the Scriptures III*, p364, versions issued before 1910. (Naturally abandoned after 1910)
 7. **1914:** The end of this world, Christ's literal return, the end of Armageddon and latest possible date for rapture. Jews expected to return to God's favor. "Present truth" until the end of 1914, but replaced by 1915 from around 1912 to Aug 1914 (start of WWI, which was felt to somehow fulfill the above prophecies about 1914).
 8. **1914:** Christ's invisible return, start of reign as King, end of last days. "Gentile times" ended, but this has no visible effect, except an (JW-imagined) increase in violence, wars, pestilence, earthquakes and other calamities since that year.
 - a. This year, even today, is the most important event in the history of modern Jehovah's Witnesses.
 - (1) In 1889 Russell wrote: "In the coming 26 years all present governments will

be overthrown and dissolved.” *Studies*, Vol. II, pp. 98—99.

- (2) According to our expectations the stress of the great time of trouble will be on us soon, somewhere between 1910 and 1912, culminating with the end of the “Times of the Gentiles.” *Studies*, Vol. VI, p. 579.
- b. Present rulers to be overthrown:
 - (1) “Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proof that the setting up of the kingdom of God is already begun, that it is pointed out in prophecy as due to begin the exercise of power in A.D. 1878, and that ‘the battle of the great day of the Lord Almighty’ (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1915, with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership, is already commenced.” *Studies*, Vol. II, p. 101.
- c. No government, bank, or churches by 1914:
 - (1) “Complete destruction of ‘powers that be’ of ‘this present evil world’ — political, financial, ecclesiastical — about the close of the ‘Time of the Gentiles’, October, A.D. 1914.” *Studies*, Vol. IV, p. 622.
- d. Present order of things entirely done away:
 - (1) “The distillery, the brewery, the saloon, the brothel, the pool—room, all time—killing and character—depraving business will be stopped; and their servants will be given something to do that will be beneficial to themselves and others.
“Similarly, the building of war—vessels, the manufacture of munitions of war and defense will cease, and armies will be disbanded. The new Kingdom will have no need of these, but will have abundant power to execute summary justice in the punishment of evil doers...
“The banking and brokerage business, and other like employments, very useful under present conditions, will no longer have a place; for under the new conditions the human race will be required to treat each others as members of one family, and private capital and money to loan and to be needed will be things of the past. Landlords and renting agencies will find new employment also, because the new King will not recognize as valid patents and deeds now on record.
“...namely, that with present conveniences, if the whole people were put to work systematically and wisely, not more than three hours labor for each individual would be necessary.” *Studies*, Vol. IV, pp. 633—635.

D. Prophecies concerning the period 1915-1925

1. **1915:** The end of the world. From ~1912 until start of WWI this year replaced 1914 in Russell's writings, since 2520 years from 606BC ends in 1915 not 1914 as Russell had thought. The fact that there is no zero year was "forgotten" when some events happened in 1914. In 1943 the idea that had been promoted in *Studies in the Scriptures VII*, namely to move Jerusalem's destruction from 606 to 607BC, was officially adopted (The fact that Jerusalem according to Bible chronology fell in 587BC does not interfere with Watchtower chronology.) (Year abandoned after start if WWI)

2. **1918:** False religion, especially Christendom, to be destroyed. Demons would enter the minds of clergy, the "swine class", causing them to do stupid things that provokes "the masses" to destroy them. "Church members by Millions Now Living Will Never Die" thus killed by God. *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p128, 485. (Naturally abandoned after 1918)
3. **1918:** Fall of Babylon, close of call to be among 144.000. This year is still held by JWs to be date for fall of Babylon, "all false religion." See *Revelation - Its Great Climax is at Hand!* p260 which says "So by 1919 Babylon the Great had fallen". (Current JW doctrine. Close of "high calling" was later moved to 1935).
4. **1919:** The Bible Student/Watchtower movement chosen by Christ to be only "channel" of communication from God to men. Current JW doctrine.
5. **1920:** Worldwide anarchy, collapse and fall of all earthly governments. *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p258. (Naturally abandoned after 1920)
6. **1925:** The end of the world immediately following the resurrection of "men of old" (Biblical heroes listed in Hebrews chapter 11). Establishment of Kingdom in Palestine. *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p128, *Millions Now Living Will Never Die* p88,97. Very definite statements in *The Watchtower* 6/15 1922; 4/1 1923, elsewhere. (Naturally abandoned after 1925, even though the date itself was held to be somehow fixed in the Scriptures even as late as in 1931 (*Vindication I* p338))
 - a. ". . . 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old. . . ." *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, p.97 (Rutherford, 1920)
 - b. "After 1925 expect shortly Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. . . ." *The Way to Paradise*, p.224 (1924)
 - c. "There will be no slip-up. . . . Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925 A.D." *Watchtower* 10/15/1917, p.6157
 - d. "This chronology is not of man but of God . . . of divine origin . . . absolutely and unqualifiedly correct." *Watchtower* 7/15/1922, p.217
 - e. "1914 ended the Gentile times. . . . The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures. . . . by then the great crisis will be reached and probably passed." *Watchtower* 9/1/1922, p.262
 - f. "1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures. . . . the Christian has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had (so far as the Scriptures reveal) upon which to base his faith in the coming deluge." *Watchtower* 4/1/1923, p.106
 - g. "The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in the Scriptures, even more clearly than that of 1914" *Watchtower* 7/15/1924, p.211
 - h. "Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then,

based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word, we must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.”
Millions Now Living Will Never Die, p. 97

- i. Return of the "men of old" enabled Rutherford to use this to gain a palatial mansion in San Diego, California. He predicted they would return in a very short time, so he prepared a house for "them." This is Beth Sarim.
- j. Fred Franz, under cross-examination at the trial in Scotland in 1954, had this to say about the 1925 date:

Am I right that it was at one time forecast that in 1925 Abraham and other Prophets would come back to earth?	They were expected to come back approximately then.
But they did not come?	No.
It was published, was it not, to the body of Jehovah's Witnesses that that was to be expected in 1925?	Yes.
But that was wrong?	Yes, and Judge Rutherford admitted it to the Headquarters.

E. Prophecies concerning the period 1926-1975

1. **1929:** Beth-Sarim mansion for the 'princes' build in San Diego. *Life* published with the premise that the end was just around the corner because the Jews were returning to Palestine, which was supposed to connect with prophecies of what would happen just before the end. They turned attention from the 1925 failure to the idea that 1925 marked the beginning of the end. (Book abandoned in 1930)
 - a. "If the end of 1925 marks the end of the last fifty—year period, then it follows that we should expect the people to begin to receive some knowledge concerning ~ great plan of restoration. The Jews are to have the favors first, and thereafter all others who obey the Lord." *Life* p. 170.
2. **1931/32:** The "establishment of the Kingdom in Power." Based on Ezek 40:1, which dates a certain prophetic message to "the fourteenth year after the city was conquered". Rutherford added 14 years to 1918 to get 1932. See *Studies in the Scriptures VII* p569. Later printings and translations of this book seems to have brought the realization that to get to the 14th year one adds 13, not 14, so the prophecy was changed to point to 1931. (Silently abandoned after the other prophecies, notably 1918 and 1925, failed to be fulfilled.)
3. **1935:** Close of "high calling" to be of the 144,000. From this date, JW's have taught that the "great Company/Crowd" in Rev 7 will live on Earth, not in heaven. The "Great Crowd", all JW's except ~8000 living now, is not considered anointed Christians, is not "born again," do not partake in communion and does not have Christ as mediator. They expect eternal life on Earth. See *The Watchtower* 6/15 1992 p23; *Jehovah's Witnesses - Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* (1993) p166. This date is justified only on the fact that the doctrine about earthly hope for "great crowd" was created in 1935. (Current JW doctrine)
4. **1941/42:** WW2 was expected to end in Armageddon, God's War. *The Watchtower*

9/15 1941 p288 talked about the "remaining months before Armageddon." The book *Children* was published re-enforcing the nearness of Armageddon. (Idea abandoned in 1943, after death of Rutherford, when the Watchtower Society started to proclaim a "very short" period of peace after WWII.)

5. **1951:** This was 37 years after 1914, like Jerusalem was destroyed in 70AD, which was 37 years after Christ's death (*The Watchtower* chronology). Some *The Watchtower* articles in 1950 hinted strongly to this parallel. *The Watchtower* 11/1 1950 p407; 9/1 1950 p277; compare *The Watchtower* 3/15 1951 p179 and 4/1 1951 p214 both pointing out that "we are 37 years into the 'time of the end' of this world." (Idea was abandoned in *The Watchtower* 9/1 1952 p542)
6. **1954:** Theoretical length of 1914-generation after the old "30-40 years" definition. See *The Watchtower* 9/1 1952 p542. "Generation" idea based on Matt 24:34, but it was finally abandoned in *The Watchtower* Nov 1, 1995. (Replaced by 70-80 year generation in 1952)
7. **1975:** End of 6000 year of human history after *The Watchtower* chronology. Strongly hinted to be end of the world; could only be a matter of "days and months, not years" before Armageddon. *Life Everlasting - in Freedom of the Sons of God* p26-30; *The Watchtower* 7/15 1967 p446-7; 8/15 1968 p499; 5/1 1975 p 285. See also *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* 1980 p30-31. (Abandoned and sometimes even denied after 1975)
 - a. "In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man's existence and also the first 6,000 years of God's rest day come to an end? The year 1975." *Awake!* 10/18/1966, p.19
 - b. "Are we to assume from this study that the battle of Armageddon will be all over by the autumn of 1975, and the long-looked-for thousand-year reign of Christ will begin by then? Possibly. . . . It may involve only a difference of weeks or months, not years." *Watchtower* 8/15/1968, p.499
 - c. "Reports are heard of brothers selling their homes and property and planning to finish out the rest of their days in this old system in the pioneer service. Certainly this is a fine way to spend the short time remaining before the wicked world's end." *Kingdom Ministry*, 5/1974, p.3
 - d. "In this twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetable resulting from this independent study gives the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E. So six thousand years of existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation." *Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, p. 29
 - e. "...there are only about ninety months left before 6000 years of man's existence on earth is completed....The majority of people living today will probably be alive when Armageddon breaks out..." *Kingdom Ministry* (March 1968)

F. Prophecies concerning the period 1976-Present

1. **1984:** Object for much speculation about maximum length of generation, based on 70 years from 1914 and Psalm 90:10. See *The Watchtower* 9/1 1952 p542; *The Watchtower* 12/1 1968 p715. (Abandoned silently as date approached.)
 - a. 1984 "These definitions embrace both those born around the time of a historic event and all those alive at that time. If Jesus used 'generation' in that sense and we apply it to 1914, then the babies of that generation are now 70 years old or older. And others alive in 1914 are in their 80's or 90's, a few even having reached a hundred. There are still many millions of that generation alive. Some of them 'will by no means pass away until all things occur.'" (*Watchtower*, 15 May, 1984, p. 5)
2. **1986:** Declared by United Nations to be "International Year of Peace," which caused much expectations with JW's about the expected declaration of "peace and security", a sign of the imminent end based on a special interpretation of 1Th 5:3. *The Watchtower* 10/1 1985 p18. (Silently forgotten after 1986)
3. **1994:** Object for much speculation about maximum length of generation, like 1984. See *The Watchtower* 9/1 1952 p542; *The Watchtower* 12/1 1968 p715. Abandoned silently as date approached.)
4. **2000:** End of world expected to come before end of century. *The Watchtower* 1/1 1989 p12 (work to be completed "in our 20th century", text changed in bound volume); *The Watchtower* 10/15 1980 p31 ("highly improbable" that this world continues to 2000); 3/1 1984 p18-19 ("end much closer than [2000]").

II. Prophetically Related Topics

A. Creation Dating

1. "Independent study that does not blindly follow" *Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, p. 29
2. The date of man's creation is variously given as follows

Date B.C.	Watchtower Source	Copyright date
4129	<i>Watch Tower Reprints</i> , p. 1980	1896
4128	Russell, <i>The Time Is at Hand</i> , p.53	1889
4028	<i>The Truth Shall Make You Free</i> , p. 152	1943
4026	<i>The Kingdom is at Hand</i> , p. 171	1944
4025	<i>New Heavens and a New Earth</i> , p. 364	1953
4026	<i>All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial</i> , p. 286	1963

3. Yet there was equivocating
 - a. "The very fact that, as part of Jehovah's secret, no one today is able to find out how much time Adam and later Eve lived during the closing days of the sixth creative period, so no one can now determine when six thousand years of Jehovah's present rest day come to an end. Obviously, whatever amount of Adam's 930 years was lived before the beginning of that seventh—day rest of Jehovah, that unknown amount would have to be added to the 1976 date." *The Watchtower* February 1, 1955, p. 95
 - b. "Of what significance is this today? It means that by the fall of 1963 mankind has dwelt upon this earth 5,988 years. Does this mean, then, that by 1963 we had progressed 5,988 years into the 'day' on which Jehovah 'has been resting from all his work'? (Gen. 2:3) No, for the creation of Adam does not correspond with the beginning of Jehovah's rest day. Following Adam's creation, and still within the sixth creative day, Jehovah appears to have been forming further animal and bird creations. Also, he had Adam name the animals, which would take some time, and he proceeded to create Eve. (Gen. 2:18—22; see also NW, 1953 Ed., footnote on Vs. 19) Whatever time elapsed between Adam's creation and the end of the 'sixth day' must be subtracted from the 5,988 years in order to give the actual length of time from the beginning of the 'seventh day' until now. **It does no good to use Bible chronology for speculating on dates that are still future in the stream of time.**" *All Scripture is Inspired of God and Beneficial* (1963), page 286
 - c. "Although the time of Adam's creation can be determined, the beginning of God's 'rest day' cannot. This is so because there was a time lapse of unspecified length between Adam's creation and the creation of Eve. Not until after the creation of Eve did God's 'rest day' begin. The start of that day being unknown, its end is likewise unknown." (*The Watchtower*, 1/1/76, p. 30)
 - d. "Does this mean, then, that mankind has not reached 6,000 years into the 7,000-year period that God 'blessed and made sacred' as his great 'rest day'? Does it mean that Christ's millennial Kingdom rule, as the final 1,000 years of that 'rest day,' is to be reckoned from September 1975? (Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:2,3; Rev. 20:1-6) No, it does not mean that. Why not? Well, the Bible record shows that God's creations on the 'day' just preceding that 7,000-year 'rest day' did not end with Adam's creation. It shows a time lapse between the creation of Adam and that of his wife, Eve. During that time, God had Adam name the animals. Whether that period amounted to weeks or months or years, we do not know. So we do not know exactly when Jehovah's great 'rest day' began, nor do we know exactly when it will end. The same applies to the beginning of Christ's millennial reign." (*The Watchtower*, 10-1-75, p. 579)
 - e. "According to reliable Bible chronology, Adam and Eve were created in 4026 B.C.E." (*Awake!*, 10-8-68, p. 14)
 - f. Book claimed Adam and Eve were created in the same year. *Aid to Bible Understanding*, p.333, 538

B. Beth Sarim ("House of Princes")

1. Built beginning 1929
 - a. Palatial Spanish style, two-story, ten room house, with two car garage.
 - b. Cost \$75,000 when built, but would be much more at today's prices. It is presently owned by a medical doctor in San Diego.
 - c. Built for "men of old", those of Heb. 11,
 - d. Rutherford insisted on writing the deed to the property

2. Twelve years later, 1942, still expected the resurrection of the princes, and Armageddon at any moment.
 - a. "The Lord Jesus has now come to the temple for judgment, and the remnant of the members of 'his body' yet on earth he has gathered into the temple condition of perfect unity with himself (Malachi 3:1—3), and hence those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now. The Scriptures give good reason to believe that it shall be shortly before Armageddon breaks.

In this expectation the house at San Diego, California, which house has been much publicized with malicious intent by the religious enemy, was built, in 1930, and named 'Beth Sarim,' meaning 'House of Princes.' It is now held in trust for the occupancy of those princes on their return. The most recent facts show that the religionists of this doomed world are gnashing their teeth because of the testimony which that 'House of Princes' hears to the new world. To those religionists and their allies the return of those faithful men of old to rule with judgment over the people shall not bring any pleasure. But to the people whom the angels sang about, 'amen of good will,' it shall be an occasion for unbounded jubilation, and they shall rally to the side of those princely representatives of the kingdom of heaven." *The New World* pp. 104—105.

3. House became personal residence of Rutherford while he lived
 - a. Fred Franz, a past president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, quoted Rutherford as saying regarding his own predictions (i.e. the resurrection of the princes): "I know I made an ass of myself." Cited by Raymond Franz in *Crisis of Conscience*, p. 137.

4. The official line of the Society about Beth Sarim today is reflected by Fred Franz in the 1954 trial in Scotland

Do you still maintain a property known as Beth Sarim in San Diego, California?	No.
Beth Sarim was, was it not, a mansion in San Diego kept for the second coming of some of the prophets?	Kept for the resurrected prophets
Namely who?	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Moses, and so on — Daniel.

Was that in the days of Judge Rutherford or Pastor Russell?	No, that was in the days of Judge Rutherford.
Were the whole body of Witnesses instructed to accept that the mansion was being kept for that purpose?	Yes.
What has come of the mansion?	It has been sold.
Why?	Because it was there, and the Prophets had not yet come back to occupy it, to make use of it, and the Society had no use for it at the time, it was in charge of a caretaker, and it was causing expense, and our understanding of the Scriptures opened up more and more concerning the Princes, which will include those Prophets, and so the property was sold as serving no present purpose.

5. In 1948, the Society quietly sold Beth Sarim, closing one of the most embarrassing chapters in their history

C. "This Generation"

1. Who is 'this generation'? According to Jehovah's Witnesses theology, those alive in 1914! Doctrine "based" on Matt. 24:34. To whom did Jesus have reference when He used this phrase in Matthew? _____
How do you know? _____
 - a. "The Hebrews . . . reckon seventy-five years as one generation. . . ." *Awake!* 4/8/1988, p.14
(1) Note: In 1945 a generation was defined as a fixed 80 years (Psa. 90:10)
 - b. ". . . the generation alive in 1914, some will see the major fulfillment of Christ Jesus' prophecy and the destruction. . . ." *Awake!* 10/8/1973, p.19
 - c. "Before the 1914 generation completely dies out, God's judgment must be executed." *Watchtower*, 5/1/1985, p.4
 - d. "Most of the generation of 1914 has passed away. However, there are still millions on earth who were born in that year or prior to it. . . . Jesus' words will come true, 'this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened.'" *Awake!* 4/8/1988, p.14
 - e. Bible prophecies indicate that Satan's world has been in its last days for nearly 80 years now, since the pivotal year 1914. This world is nearing its end. *Watchtower* 3/15/1994 p.20
 - f. "This time of the end is, however, to be a relatively short period—stretching over one generation. (Luke 21:31, 32) The fact that we are now 80 years beyond 1914 indicates that we can soon expect the deliverance that God's Kingdom will bring. This means that we will see "the lowliest one of mankind"—Jesus Christ—take complete control of "the kingdom of mankind"

and bring about a peaceful and just new world. Daniel 4:17." *The Watchtower*, 11/8/94, p. 10

- g. By now, in this latter part of "the last days," the great majority of the 144,000 have died and received their heavenly reward. *Watchtower* 7/1/1995 p.15
- 2. Their 'this generation' is running out of time for the events associated with it. The solution?
 - a. "Jehovah's Witnesses, in their eagerness for Jesus' second coming, have suggested dates that turned out to be incorrect." . . . "Never did they say, 'These are the words of Jehovah.'" *Awake!* March 22, 1993, pg. 4
 - b. "From a purely human view point, it could appear that these developments could hardly take place before the generation of 1914 disappears from the scene. But the fulfillment of all the foretold events affecting the generation of 1914 does not depend on comparatively slow human action. **Jehovah's prophetic word** through Christ Jesus is: '**This generation (of 1914) will by no means pass away until all things occur.**' (Luke 21:32 And Jehovah, who is the source of inspired and unfailing prophecy, will bring about the fulfillment of his Son's words in a relatively short time. . . . (*The Watchtower*, 15 May, 1984, 6-7; emphasis added).
 - c. In *The Watchtower*, November 1 1995, the equivocation is formalized:
 - (1) "Rather than provide a rule for measuring time, the term "generation" as used by Jesus refers principally to contemporary people of a certain historical period, with their identifying characteristics." p. 17
 - (2) "Therefore, in the final fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy today, "this generation" apparently refers to the peoples of earth who see the sign of Christ's presence but fail to mend their ways." p. 19
 - (3) In each *Awake!* Magazine there is a page: "Why Awake is Published"
 - (a) Before November 8th 1995 - "Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world before the generation that saw the events of 1914 passes away."
 - (b) After November 8 1995: "Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things." (Notice deletion of any reference to '1914 generation')

D. The 144,000

- 1. These are the special elect of God
 - a. Called Anointed, Body of Christ, Bride of Christ, Chosen Ones, Holy Nation, Israel of God, Kingdom Class, Little-Flock, New Creation, 144,000, Royal House, Royal Priesthood, Spirit Begotten, Spiritual Israel, Spiritual Sons
 - (1) All of the passages that mention these terms, names, or ideas are supposed to apply only to this class.
 - (2) The leaders of the Society must be In this class, and only those in this

class can hold high Society office.

- (3) The rulers of the Witnesses are of this class and must be obeyed; the rest of the Witnesses are “slaves.”
- (4) None outside of the Jehovah's Witnesses organization can be in the group
- b. Benefits only available **only** to this group
 - (1) Jesus mediates only for them, not all
 - (2) Immortality in Heaven
 - (3) They are virtually equal with Christ
 - (4) Only they can be born again
 - (5) Partake of the Lord's Supper offered once a year.
2. Originally (Russell's view) only these would be saved
3. Great Crowd (also called Other Sheep) introduced by Rutherford in 1935
 - a. All Jehovah's Witnesses from 1935 and later would not be in the 144,000
 - b. Great Crowd would not go to heaven but live eternally in a paradise on earth
4. Today very few of the '144,000' remain (~8000 in 1987)
5. Entire doctrine based upon Rev. 14:3-5, 7:4-17, and John 10:16
 - a. Based on the text list some problems with the doctrine
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
 - (5) _____
 - (6) _____
 - (7) _____

E. Other 'Flip-Flops'

1. “Higher Powers” (Rom. 13:1-7)
 - a. Initially taught it to be human rulers, man's government.
 - b. After World War I, taught that the “higher powers” were Jehovah and Jesus (cf. *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, 312).
 - c. In 1959 back to their original view (cf. *Jehovah's Witnesses In The Divine Purpose*, 91).
 - d. Then, soon afterward, they changed again to the teaching that the “higher powers” were Jehovah and Jesus (cf. *Babylon The Great Has Fallen!* 1963, 548).
 - e. 17 years later back to the old teaching that man's government was the “higher powers” (cf. *The Watchtower*, 15 May 1980, 4).

2. Prophecies about the Men of Sodom

- (1) The men of Sodom will be resurrected (*The Watchtower*, July 1879, 8).
- (2) The men of Sodom will not be resurrected (ibid., 1 June 1952, 338).
- (3) The men of Sodom will be resurrected (ibid., 1 August 1965, 479).
- (4) The men of Sodom will not be resurrected (ibid., 1 June 1988, 31).
- (5) The men of Sodom will be resurrected (*You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth*, early ed. 179).
- (6) The men of Sodom will not be resurrected (ibid., later ed., 179).
- (7) The men of Sodom will be resurrected (*Insight On The Scriptures*, vol. 2, 985).
- (8) The men of Sodom will not be resurrected (*Revelation- Its Grand Climax at Hand*, 273).

Summary: Jehovah's Witnesses handling of prophecy is very well summed up by their own admission:

"Does this admission of making mistakes stamp them as false prophets? Not at all, for false prophets do not admit to making mistakes." *The Watchtower*, 1 October, 1972, p. 644

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society now views itself as fallible. That is the whole point of the article - they have been "mistaken." Quite an admission for the 'channel of Jehovah'. Indeed, they are not God's channel, and as history has proven, the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has been shown to be false prophets. (Deut. 18:21-22).

Be aware. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society promotes what is referred to as the "Theocratic War Strategy" which condones lying to "non-worshippers of Jehovah" if necessary, e.g., to keep them from hampering the preaching work of the members. (*The Watchtower*, May 1957; *Insight on the Scriptures*, p.245)

Jehovah's Witnesses - Major Doctrines

There are a number of beliefs the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society hold and preach. Following is a listing of a number of them. We will only deal in any depth with the major doctrines they hold.

1. There is one God in one person, *Make Sure of All Things*, p 188.
2. There is no Trinity, *Let God be True*, p. 100-101; *Make Sure of All Things*, p.386.
3. The Holy Spirit is a force, not alive, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 406-407.
4. The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force, *The Watchtower*, June 1, 1952, p. 24.
5. Jehovah's first creation was his 'only-begotten Son'. . . was used by Jehovah in creating all other things", *Aid to Bible Understanding*, pp. 390-391.
6. Jesus was Michael the archangel who became a man, *The Watchtower*, May 15, 1963, p. 307; *The New World*, 284.
7. Jesus was only a perfect man, not God in flesh, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 306.
8. Jesus did not rise from the dead in his physical body, *Awake!* July 22, 1973, p. 4.
9. Jesus was raised "not a human creature, but a spirit." *Let God be True*, p. 276.
10. Jesus did not die on a cross but on a stake, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 89-90.
11. Jesus returned to earth, invisibly, in 1914, *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, p. 300.
12. Jesus' ransom sacrifice did not include Adam, *Let God be True*, p. 119.
13. Their church is the self-proclaimed prophet of God, *The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197.
14. They claim to be the only channel of God's truth, *The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1981, p. 19.
15. Only their church members will be saved, *The Watchtower*, Feb, 15, 1979, p. 30.
16. Good works are necessary for salvation, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, pp. 150, 152.
17. The soul ceases to exist after death, *Let God be True*, p. 59, 60, 67.
18. There is no hell of fire where the wicked are punished, *Let God be True*, p. 79, 80.
19. Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness go to heaven, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 166-167, 361; *Let God be True*, p. 121.
20. Blood transfusions are a sin, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 72-73.
21. The Cross is a pagan symbol and should not be used, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 90-92.
22. Salvation is by faith and what you do, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, pp. 150,152.
23. It is possible to lose your salvation, *Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 358-359.
24. The universe is billions of years old, *Your will Be Done on Earth*, p. 43.
25. They also refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate

Christmas or birthdays. They are not allowed to serve in the armed forces.

I. Trinity

Belief Summary: Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the Trinity (i.e. the three persons of the Godhead). Jesus is the first creation of God. He is fully human. The Holy Spirit is an active force which intervenes for God on earth. All the above mentioned are separate entities.

A couple of quotes to demonstrate the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's concept of the Trinity (i.e. the three persons of the Godhead):

"The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine," (*Let God Be True*, p. 101).

"Nevertheless, sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God," (*Ibid*, p. 102).

1. Using a dictionary, define the following:

- a. Godhead: _____
- b. Godhood: _____
- c. Divine: _____
- d. Deity: _____
- e. Manhood: _____
- f. Person _____

A. Holy Spirit

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches

- a. The Holy Spirit is not deity, nor a rational being, but an "it" - the "force" of God
 - (1) "But the holy spirit has no personal name. The reason for this is that the **holy spirit is not an intelligent person**. It is the **impersonal, invisible active force** that finds its source and reservoir in Jehovah God..." (*Let Your Name Be Sanctified*, p. 269; emphasis mine).
 - (2) "Jehovah's **active force or spirit is subject to his control** and always accomplishes his purpose. It is clean, pure, sacred and set apart for God's good use. Therefore it is called 'holy spirit...' (*Aid To Bible Understanding*, p. 781; emphasis mine).

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. What can be concluded about the Holy Spirit in the following verses:

- (1) Gen. 1:2 _____
- (2) Mt. 28:19; Rom. 15:30; 2 Co. 13:14; Ac. 5:3,4 _____
- (3) To whom did Ananias and Sapphira lie? _____
- (4) 1 Co. 2:10-11 _____

b. What characteristics of personality ("The quality or condition of being a person." - *American Heritage Dictionary*) do the following verses attribute to the Holy Spirit, God, & Christ?

- (1) Rom. 15:13, 1 Tim. 1.1 _____
- (2) 1 Pet. 5:10; Rom. 16:20; Heb. 10:29 _____
- (3) Phil. 1:8; Rev. 1:5; Acts 5:32 _____
- (4) Gen. 6:6; Mark 3:5; Eph. 4:30 _____
- (5) 2 Chr. 32:17; Matt. 27:44; Heb. 10:29 _____
- (6) Rev. 16:11; Luke 22:65; Matt. 12:31 _____

c. What are the personality attributes of the Holy Spirit found in the following:

- (1) 1 Cor. 2:10-11 _____
- (2) John 16:13 _____
- (3) Rom. 8:14 _____
- (4) Rom. 8:16 _____
- (5) Eph. 3:5 _____
- (6) 1 Cor. 12:8 _____
- (7) Rom. 15:19 _____
- (8) Acts 13:2 _____
- (9) Mark 13:11 _____
- (10) John 16:7-8 _____
- (11) Acts 15:28 _____
- (12) 1 Cor. 12:7ff _____

3. Is the Holy Spirit simply an "it", an "active force" of Jehovah, or a rational being who shares characteristics of a person and shares those with others in the Godhead, i.e. is Deity? _____

B. Christ

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teachings

a. Not Deity

- (1) "He is the Son of God. He came to earth from heaven and gave his perfect human life as a ransom sacrifice. His death and resurrection made salvation to eternal life possible for those exercising faith in him. He is now

ruling as King of God's heavenly Kingdom, which will soon bring peace to the entire earth. Jesus never claimed equality with God and thus is not part of a Trinity.—John 3:16; 14:28; Revelation 11:15." ⁸

- (2) "Thus, for example, the Bible shows that there is only one God, the Most High, the Almighty. And that the Son, as the First-born, the Only-begotten and 'the creation by God,' had a beginning" (*From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, p. 164).

b. God's first creation

- (1) "Thus the Scriptures identify the Word (Jesus...) as God's first creation... Jehovah was truly the Father or Life-giver to this firstborn Son and, hence, that this Son was actually a creature of God..." (*Aid To Bible Understanding*, p. 918).

c. Christ is the angel Michael

- (1) "It proves that Michael the archangel is no other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ. The very name Michael means 'Who is like God?' and indicates that Jehovah God is without like or equal and that Michael his archangel is his great Champion and Vindicator" (*New Heavens and a New Earth*, pp. 30-31).

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. What claims are made about Jesus in John's prologue? John 1:1-3, 14 _____

⁸ www.jw-media.org/beliefs/trueworship.htm

- (1) The New World Translation version of John 1:1 is not accurate.

ΚΑΤΑ ΙΩΑΝΗΝ ACCORDING TO JOHN	
1 Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος In beginning was the Word, and the Word ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. was toward the God, and god was the Word. 2 Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. This (one) was in beginning toward the God. 3 Πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ All things through him came to be, and	1 In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. ^a 2 This one was in [the] beginning with God. 3 All things came

The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures, 1969

- (a) Note the word for word translation (interlinear) above and the New World Translation to the right.
- (b) Jehovah's Witnesses base their argument for "Word was a god" rather than "Word was God" on the Greek article translated 'the'.

- (2) The New World Translation version is not even consistent with itself; examples include John 3:2 and John 13:3

John 3:2 The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures, 1969

ἦν ἐν τῷ ἄνθρωπῳ. was in the man. 3 Ἦν δὲ ἄνθρωπος ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων, Was but man out of the Pharisees, Νικόδημος ὄνομα αὐτῷ, ἄρχων τῶν Nicodemus name to him, ruler of the Ἰουδαίων. 2 οὗτος ἦλθεν πρὸς αὐτὸν Jews; this (one) came toward him νυκτὸς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ῥαββί, οἶδαμεν of night and he said to him Rabbi, we have known ὅτι ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἐλήλυθας διδάσκαλος. that from God you have come teacher;	3 Now there was a man of the Phar- isees, Nic·o·de·mus was his name, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This one came to him in the night and said to him: "Rabbi, we know that you as a teacher have come from God;
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

heart	in order that	παραδοῖ	αὐτὸν	heart of Judas Is-
		should give beside	him	car'i-ot, the son of
Ἰούδας	Σίμωνος	Ἰσκαριώτης, 3	εἰδὼς	Simon, to betray him
Judas	of Simon	Iscariot,	having known	3 he, knowing that
ὅτι	πάντα	ἔδωκεν	αὐτῷ	ὁ πατήρ
that	all (things)	gave	to him	the Father
				into
τὰς	χεῖρας,	καὶ	ὅτι	ἀπὸ
the	hands,	and	that	from
				God
				came out
				and
πρὸς	τὸν	θεὸν	ὑπάγει,	4
toward	the	God	he is going under,	ἐγείρεται
				he gets up
		σου	καὶ	τίθησιν
				τὰ
				the
				evening meal

- (a) In John 3:2, "come from God" has no article "the" and thus to be consistent it would have to be translated "come from a god".
- (b) In John 13:3, if consistent would read "and that he came forth from a god and was going to God"
- (3) New World Translation of John 1:1 refuted by all reputable Greek scholars
- (4) Clear the translation is a product of the Jehovah's Witnesses theology that the Son of God is not deity but rather God the Father's first created being.
- b. What did Jesus claim about Himself? John 5:18-23 _____

- c. What were Jesus' claims in answering the Pharisees? John 8:56-59; Exod. 3:14; John 10:31-33 _____

- d. What did Thomas confess and what was implication in Jesus' response? John 20:28-31 _____
- e. How does Paul describe Jesus? Col. 2:9 _____
- f. What is Jesus called in Isaiah 9:6? _____
- g. Compare the following Scriptures; who is the Old Testament scripture in reference to and who is the New Testament scripture in reference to? What is the conclusion re: Jesus' deity?
 - (1) Joel 2:32 & Rom. 10:13 (note context) _____
 - (2) Isaiah 40:3 & Matt. 3:3 (cmp. Luke 1:76) _____
 - (3) Psalms 45:6 & Heb. 1:8 _____

- h. Consider chapters 1-3 of Hebrews. What comparison is made with respect to Christ and what is the conclusion? _____
- (1) What is the conclusion one must reach of the Jehovah's Witnesses belief that Jesus is Michael, the archangel? _____
3. Is the Jesus Christ simply "a god", a creation of God the Father (Jehovah), and an angel (Michael), or a rational being who shares characteristics of a person and shares those with others in the Godhead, i.e. is Deity? _____

C. Jehovah

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "There was, therefore, a time when Jehovah was all alone in universal space. ...Then the time came when Jehovah began to create," (*Let God Be True*, p. 25).
 - b. "Jehovah is the name of the only true God, the Creator of all things. As such, he is worthy of our worship and devotion. His outstanding qualities are love, justice, wisdom, and power. (Psalm 83:18; 1 John 4:8; Revelation 4:11)." (www.jw-media.org/beliefs/trueworship.htm)
 - (1) Jehovah's Witnesses favored ASV which uses Jehovah exclusively for YHWH until they completed the New World Translation
2. The Bible teaches:

We've already seen that both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are Deity, persons in the Godhead. On the face of it the Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine (interpretation) of "One God" (note C1a comment above) is refuted.

 - a. Who created the universe? Gen. 1:1, 2; Gen. 1:26; Col. 1:16-17 _____
 - b. What do the Scriptures mean when they repeatedly affirm there is "one God"? Deut. 6:4 (Deut. 5:6-8) _____
3. Is there only one God as taught by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society or is there only one God as the Bible teaches, with three beings in the Godhead? _____

Jehovah's Witnesses - Major Doctrines

I. Nature of Man

Belief Summary: Jehovah's Witnesses accept the Genesis account of the fall of man. However, they take a Calvinist view - man is blemished with sin because of the disobedience Adam and Eve showed towards God - therefore, every man is born with sin (save for Jesus, who was born to a virgin). They do not accept that man has a soul but rather that he is a soul. They also believe that man's soul is mortal - i.e. that when a person dies, his spirit (or soul) dies as well. In addition, some will experience eternal life when they are resurrected, in the flesh and soul, simultaneously.

A couple of quotes to demonstrate the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's concept of the nature of man:

"How, then did the human soul come into existence? By God's creating the human body from the dust of the ground and combining with it 'the breath of life.' This means that the human soul is maintained alive by breathing the needed air through the nostrils. It does not mean that the human creature, man, is maintained by having inside himself an invisible, spiritual, intelligent something called 'soul' that can separate from the body at death and that can continue its intelligent, conscious existence in an invisible, spiritual realm, either with angels or with demons." (*Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie*, p. 142)

'In describing the creation of the original man Genesis 2:7 very simply states: 'the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul,' Thus we learn that man is a combination of two things, namely, the 'dust of the ground' and 'the breath of life'. The combining of these two things (or factors) produced a living soul or creature called man." *Let God Be True*, Second edition, 1946, p. 68

A. Made in the Image of God

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "Because man would be created 'in God's image,' he could be called a 'son of God,' as Luke 3:38 calls him. His body is adapted to life on earth, not life in the invisible heavens. Nevertheless, man is 'in God's image' in that he is created with moral qualities like those of God, namely, love and justice, and he has powers and wisdom above those of animals, so that he can appreciate the things that God enjoys and appreciates, such as natural beauty and the fine arts of music, writing, reading, speaking, reasoning, the science of numbers, and such processes of the mind of which the lower animal creatures are not

capable. For such reasons man was able to have in subjection the lower forms of creature life in the skies, the earth and the sea." *Things In Which it is Impossible for God to Lie*, p. 139.

- b. "On the basis of Psa. 8:4-8 in the King James version it is implied that man was made a little lower than the angels"... "Man is, however, superior to the animals, not because he has an immortal soul, but because (1) he is a higher form of creature, and (2) he was originally given dominion over the lower forms of animal life." *Let God Be True*, pp. 67-68

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. Man is made in the "image of God" (Gen. 1:27) But what is meant? What do you learn and conclude from the following passages?

- (1) Physically? Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39 _____

- (2) Character (i.e. conduct and thinking)? Gen. 9:1-6; 1 Pet. 1:14-16 _____

- (3) Part of man in common with the animal kingdom? Gen. 9:1-6 _____

- (4) Because he has dominion over the remaining creation? Gen. 1:26-27, 28ff _____

- (5) What is the dual nature of man? Luke 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:9 _____

- (6) If made in his spiritual nature, in what way? _____

- 3. Is man made in the image of God simply because he was put in dominion over the earth and granted attributes of "moral qualities like those of God, namely, love and justice, and powers and wisdom above those of animals" or because he is made in the image of God, with a spiritual inner man that remains after the demise of one's fleshly body? _____

B. Soul of Man

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:

- a. Man doesn't have a soul; rather he is a soul

- (1) "All this goes to show that the 'living soul' is not something implanted invisible inside the human body but is the human person himself. Consequently, when God's Word uses the expression 'your soul,' it means you, yourself, your very being, your life as a human soul." (*Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie*, p. 141)

- (2) "So we see that the claim of religionists that man has an immortal soul and therefore differs from the beast is not Scriptural. The Bible shows that both man and beasts are souls, and that man's pre-eminence is due to the fact that he is a higher form of creature and was originally given dominion over the lower forms of animal life. (Ecclesiastes 3:18-21) The first man, Adam,

was created a living soul, and nowhere is it stated that he was given an immortal soul." (*Let God Be True*, Second Edition, p. 68)

- (3) In large part doctrine stands on using on one meaning of 'soul'. In *Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie* the fifth chapter is titled "Your 'soul' is you." It expands on the title with the following comment: "All this goes to show that the 'living soul' is not something implanted invisible inside the human body but is the human person himself. Consequently, when God's Word uses the expression 'your soul,' it means you yourself, your very being, your life as a human soul."

- (a) If this concept is true, what becomes of the human being when he dies? _____

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. There are four related words in the Old and New Testaments that are translated "soul" or "spirit"

b. Old: nephesh⁹

- (1) soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion

- (2) What does soul (nephesh) pertain to in the following verses? (KJV)

(a) Psalms 78:48-50 _____

(b) Job 12:7-10 _____

(c) Numbers 31:28 _____

(d) Leviticus 21:11, Numbers 6:6 _____

(e) Job 14:22 _____

(f) Psalms 63:1 _____

(g) Job 41:21 _____

(h) Genesis 42:21 _____

(i) Numbers 21:5 _____

(j) Ezekiel 24:21 _____

c. New: psuche¹⁰

- (1) 1. "breath" (Latin *anima*); a. "the breath of life; the vital force"; b. "life"; c. "that in which there is life; a living being"

- (2) 2. "the soul" (Latin *animus*), a. "the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions"; b. "the (human) soul in so far as it is so constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, the soul regarded as a moral being designed

⁹ Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Lexicon

¹⁰ Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

for everlasting life”; c. “the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death”

(3) What does soul (psuche) pertain to in the following verses (KJV)

(a) Romans 13:1 _____

(b) Romans 11:3 _____

(c) In what way do these verses differentiate the soul:

i) Hebrews 4:12 _____

ii) Matthew 6:25 _____

iii) Matthew 10:28; Acts 2:27 _____

d. Old: ruach¹¹

(1) breath, wind,,spirit (as that which breathes quickly in animation or agitation); spirit (of the living, breathing being in man and animals) ; spirit (as seat of emotion) ; spirit (as seat or organ of mental acts; as seat especially of moral character); Spirit of God, the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son

(2) What does spirit (ruach) pertain to in the following verses? (KJV)

(a) Isaiah 7:2 _____

(b) Ezekiel 37:8 _____

(c) Isaiah 2:22 _____

(d) Isaiah 26:9 _____

(e) Ecclesiastes 12:7 _____

(f) Job 32:8 _____

(g) Job 32:18 _____

(h) Isaiah 26:9 _____

(i) Zechariah 12:1 _____

(j) Daniel 7:15 _____

e. New: pneuma¹²

(1) 1. “a movement of air (gentle) blast”;

(2) 2. “the spirit, i.e. the vital principle by which the body is animated”

(3) 3. “a spirit, i.e. a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting”;

(4) 4. “God’s power and agency manifest in the course of affairs, and by its influence upon souls productive in the theocratic body (the church) of all

¹¹ *Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Lexicon*

¹² *Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

the higher spiritual gifts and blessings”;

(5) 5. universally, “the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of anyone; the efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire,”

(6) What does spirit (pneuma) pertain to in the following verses? (KJV)

(a) John 3:8 _____

(b) 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NASV) _____

(c) John 1:32 _____

(d) Luke 4:33 _____

(e) Hebrews 1:14 _____

(f) 2 Timothy 1:7 _____

(g) 2 Corinthians 12:18 _____

(h) Luke 24:37 _____

(i) Luke 24:39 _____

(j) Acts 7:59 _____

(k) Hebrews 12:23 _____

(l) James 2:26 _____

f. 'Soul' and 'spirit' are often used interchangeably (Job 7:11; Isaiah 26:9)

g. They are also used differentially (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12)

h. In the beginning, how did God create man? Gen. 1:26-27 _____

3. Is man simply "a combination of two things, namely, the 'dust of the ground' and 'the breath of life'...", producing only a "...living soul or creature called man"¹³ or does a man consist of an outer man (body) and an inner man (soul/spirit) such that when he suffers physical death he will die in body and his soul will live on? _____

C. Death and the Mortality of Man's Soul

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:

a. Man is mortal in body, spirit and soul (once dead, always dead - sort of)

(1) The soul ceases to exist after death. *Let God be True*, p. 59, 60, 67.

(2) "Thus it is seen that the serpent is the one that originated the doctrine of the inherent immortality of human souls," *Let God Be True*, pp. 74-75

(3) "...the reformation did not bring in a large number of reforms as to fundamental church doctrines, which continued to be heavily tainted with paganism ...various doctrines such as 'trinity,' 'immortality of the soul,'

¹³ *Let God Be True*

`hell-fire,' traditions of men and creature worship continued unchanged,"
(*Qualified To Be Ministers*, p. 292)

- (4) "When the first man, Adam, deliberately disobeyed God's command, He said to him: "In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19) Where was Adam before Jehovah created him from the dust? Why, he was nowhere! He simply did not exist. So when Jehovah God said that Adam would "return to the ground," he meant that Adam would die and return to the elements in the ground. Adam would not cross over to the spirit realm. At death Adam would once again be nonexistent. His punishment was death—absence of life—not a transfer to another realm.

Clearly, the dead do not exist. They cannot know anything. They cannot see you, hear you, or talk to you. They can neither help you nor harm you. You certainly need not fear the dead. But how is it that the spirit "goes out" from a person at the time of his death?" *Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Web Site*¹⁴

- (5) The definition of death according to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society: "Loss of life; termination of existence, utter cessation of conscious, intellectual or physical activity, celestial, human or otherwise." *Make Sure of All Things*, (1953), p. 86
- (a) Thus the definition of death is annihilation, utter and complete
- (b) The Jehovah's Witnesses fall into the same routine of using one definition for death no matter context.

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. The basic concept of death is "separation"; context and harmony will help determine the parts of the separation. What type of death (separation) is in view in the following, and what is separated from what? (See first one as example)

- (1) James 2:26 Physical death - body from spirit
- (2) Eccl. 12:7 _____
- (3) Gen. 25:17 _____
- (4) Eph. 2:1, 5 _____
- (5) Rom. 6:2, 11 _____
- (6) John 5:24 _____
- (7) John 11:25 (NASB) _____
- (8) Matt. 8:22 _____
- (9) Rom. 6:23 _____
- (10) Gen. 2:17 _____

¹⁴ www.watchtower.org/library/w/2001/7/15/article_02.htm

(11) Rev. 20:14-15 _____

3. Does death only mean one thing in the Scriptures, and that of annihilation with no aspect of man having any eternal destiny or is our death one that can be ultimately viewed as a separation of body and soul, with our fleshly body returning to dust and the soul/spirit existing forever more (and united with an immortal body which we will study later)? _____
- _____

Jehovah's Witnesses - Major Doctrines

I. Hell and Eternal Punishment

Belief Summary: Jehovah's Witnesses categorically reject the concept of a place of eternal punishment and the eternal punishment that the unrighteous will inherit. As seen in earlier lessons, this doctrine is inescapably intertwined with their concept of the human being and death (annihilation by the doctrine). Their great hatred of God's justice undoubtedly stems from the founder of the organization, Russell, and its chief propagandist, Rutherford, both of whom campaigned relentlessly against the eternal justice of God in the form of conscious separation and torment.

A couple of quotes to demonstrate the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's view of hell and eternal punishment:

"Eternal torture is void of the principle of love; God is love. A creator that would torture His creatures eternally would be a fiend and not a God of Love" (Rutherford, *World Distress*, p. 40).

"The condition of the dead is made clear at Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10, where we read: The dead know nothing . . . In the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom." (New International Version) Scripturally, death is a state of nonexistence. The dead have no awareness, no feelings, no thoughts." (*Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Web Site*¹⁵)

"Since the dead have no conscious existence, hell cannot be a fiery place of torment where the wicked suffer after death. What, then, is hell? Examining what happened to Jesus after he died helps to answer that question. The Bible writer Luke recounts: "Neither was [Jesus] forsaken in Hades [hell, King James Version] nor did his flesh see corruption."* (Acts 2:31) Where was the hell to which even Jesus went? The apostle Paul wrote: "I handed on to you . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, yes, that he has been raised up the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4) So Jesus was in hell, the grave, but he was not abandoned there, for he was raised up, or resurrected." (*Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Web Site*¹⁶)

A. Hell

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "...Gehenna, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, is a picture or symbol of

¹⁵ www.watchtower.org/library/w/2002/7/15/article_02.htm

¹⁶ www.watchtower.org/library/w/2002/7/15/article_02.htm

complete annihilation, and not of eternal torment..." *Let God Be True*, p. 97

- b. "...Gehenna is the condition of destruction where the Devil, his demons and all human opposers of Jehovah's theocratic government will go and from which condition there is no resurrection or recovery." *Let God Be True*, p. 99.
 - c. Revelation 20:13 states: "The sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Hades gave up those dead in them." Yes, the Bible hell will be emptied. As Jesus promised, "the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear [Jesus'] voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) Although no longer presently existing in any form, millions of dead ones who are in Jehovah God's memory will be resurrected, or brought back to life, in a restored earthly paradise.—Luke 23:43; Acts 24:15 ((*Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Web Site*¹⁷)
 - d. "Who is responsible for this God-defaming doctrine of a hell of torment? The promulgator of it is Satan himself." *Let God be True*, p. 98
2. The Bible teaches?
- a. "Hell" is translated (KJV) from "Hades", "Sheol", "Tartarus", and "Gehenna" (Sheol always rendered Sheol in NASV).
 - (1) "Hades" in the New Testament is the equivalent of "Sheol" in the Old Testament.
 - (2) "Tartarus" (only occurrence is 2 Pet. 2:4) is the ancient Greek's equivalent concept of the Jewish "Gehenna".
 - (3) These words are translated variously (hell, Sheol, grave, pit, etc.) and to understand the differences depends upon context and harmony.
 - b. Letting *the context* define its usage, what does Sheol or Hades mean in the following? Do any of these necessarily imply non-existence, unconsciousness, annihilation?
 - (1) Jonah 2:2 _____
 - (2) 2 Sam 22:6 (KJV, "hell") _____
 - (3) Psa. 49:15 (KJV, "grave") _____
 - (4) Pro. 23:14 (KJV, "hell") _____
 - (5) Isa. 14:11,15 (KJV, "grave," "hell") (Don't fail to note vv. 16-20.) _____
 - (6) Job 17:13-16 (KJV, "grave," "pit") _____
 - (7) Psa. 139:8; Job 11:8; Amos 9:2 (KJV, "hell") _____
 - (8) Luke 16:23 (KJV, "hell") _____
 - (9) 1 Cor. 15:55 (KJV, "grave") _____
 - c. What kind of people go to Sheol or Hades? Good? Wicked? Both? See the following scriptures.

¹⁷ www.watchtower.org/library/w/2002/7/15/article_02.htm

- (1) Gen. 37:35 (KJV, "grave") _____
- (2) Ps. 16:10 (KJV, "hell") _____
- (3) Num. 16:30 (KJV, "pit") _____
- (4) Ps 9:17 (KJV, "hell") _____

d. What can be learned from *the context* about Gehenna in the following scriptures? (In these scriptures "hell" translates geena, Gehenna.)

- (1) Matt. 5:22 _____
- (2) Matt. 5:29,30 _____
- (3) Matt. 10:28 _____
- (4) Matt. 23:33 _____
- (5) Mark 9:46,48 _____
- (6) Luke 12:5 _____

- 3. Does the Bible describe man's existence ending when he goes to the grave or does the Bible portray a place apart from the grave where the inner man goes pending a day of judgment? _____

B. Eternal (and Conscious) Punishment

- 1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "Consider now: Where was Adam before God formed him from the dust and gave him life: Why, he simply did not exist. At his death Adam returned to the same lifeless, unconscious state." *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, 1968, p. 34.
 - b. "...the dead cannot do anything and cannot feel anything." *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, 1968, p. 35.
- 2. The Bible teaches?
 - a. The Bible speaks of eternal/everlasting things frequently. What is "eternal" in the following passages and to what time period do they point?
 - (1) Matthew 19:29 _____
 - (2) John 3:16 _____
 - (3) John 5:24 _____
 - (4) Romans 6:23 _____
 - (5) Romans 16:26 _____
 - (6) Ephesians 3:11 _____
 - (7) 1 Timothy 1:16-17 _____
 - (8) 1 John 2:25 _____
 - b. What is "eternal" in the following passages and to what time period do they point?

- (1) Matthew 18:8 _____
 - (2) 2 Thessalonians 1:9 _____
 - (3) Jude 1:6 _____
 - (4) Jude 1:7 _____
- c. What is "eternal" in the following passages and to what time period do they point? (Note the context)
- (1) Matthew 25:46 _____
- d. The Jehovah's Witnesses claim there is no eternal punishment but rather only annihilation and total cessation at death; how do the following refute their doctrine?
- (1) Heb. 10:28-29 _____
 - (2) Matthew 26:24 _____
- e. Is the account in Luke 16:19-31 a parable as the Jehovah's Witnesses would claim? - Be prepared to explain. What statements demand a consciousness after death (and either in 'Abraham's bosom' or 'Hades'?)
- (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
 - (5) _____
 - (6) _____
 - (7) _____
 - (8) _____
- f. Consider Jesus' reply to the Sadducees in Luke 20:27-38.
- (1) What did they believe about the resurrection? _____
 - (2) What did Jesus tell them about God and what did they necessarily have to conclude? _____
- g. What description is applied in the following verses, pertaining to whom and for what duration?
- (1) Revelation 20:10 _____
 - (2) Revelation 14:9-11 _____
- h. Per the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society "The condition of the dead is made clear at Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10... Scripturally, death is a state of nonexistence. The dead have no awareness, no feelings, no thoughts." Thus they conclude there is no consciousness of a person after death.
- (1) What is the problem with their interpretation? _____
- i. Be aware that Jehovah's Witnesses take the view that "destruction" found in a number of passages means annihilation. However, none of the Greek words

used for destroy/destruction have any definition or ancient use that included "annihilation".

3. Do the wicked (and all of mankind) simply go to the grave and cease to exist in any form, experiencing no eternal punishment but rather being annihilated or does the Bible look toward a judgment of both the righteous and the unrighteous providing eternal punishment for the evil doers with Satan and eternal glory and blessings for the faithful with God, each fully aware of their condition. _____
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Jehovah's Witnesses - Major Doctrines

I. The "Resurrections" of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society

Belief Summary: The Jehovah's Witnesses teach a doctrine in which there are several "resurrections" - 1) that of Christ in the 1st century; 2) the 'first resurrection' which is the 2nd coming (not really a return) of Jesus in 1914; 3) the resurrection of life; and 4) the resurrection of judgment.

They deny the bodily resurrection of Christ through their teaching that the body of Christ was annihilated by God -- not risen -- but rather a new one - a spiritual body - was created three days after His death. This they call the "resurrection" of Christ.

Thus, Jesus was "resurrected" as a "glorious spirit creature" and does not now have a glorified physical body. Instead, they claim Jesus arose spiritually and only "materialized" at various times after His resurrection so He could be seen alive. (*Awake!*, 7/22/73, p. 4)

A quote to demonstrate the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's view of 'bodily resurrection':

"Resurrection is a restoration to life of the nonexistent dead... It is an act of God dependent entirely upon God's marvelous power through Christ and upon His memory of the dead. It is the reactivating of the life pattern of the creature, a transcription of which is on record with God, and is referred to as being in His memory. Resurrection does not involve the restoring of the original identical body of the creature. The life pattern is the personal life-long record of the creature built up by his thoughts and by the experiences in the life he has lived resulting from certain habits, leanings, mental abilities, memories and history. It is also a register of the individual's intellectual growth and his characteristics, all of which make up one's personality. Hence, according to God's will for the creature, in a resurrection one is restored or recreated in either a human or a spirit body and yet retains his personal identity by the setting in motion again of the distinctive life pattern of that individual." *Make Sure of All Things*, p. 311 (emphasis mine)

A. Bodily resurrection of Christ

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "...many persons believe that Christ took his fleshly body to heaven. They point to the fact that when Christ was raised from the dead, his fleshly body was no longer in the tomb (Mark 16:5-7). Also, after his death Jesus appeared to his disciples in a fleshly body to show them that he was alive. Once He even had the apostle Thomas put his hand into the hole in His side so that Thomas

would believe that He had actually been resurrected (John 20:24-27) Does this not prove that Christ was raised alive in the same body in which he was put to death? No it does not." (*You Can Live Forever on Paradise Earth*, pp. 143-144).

- b. "...the bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to the disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree." (*The Kingdom is at Hand*, 1944, p. 259).
 - c. "...the man Jesus is dead, forever dead..." (*The Atonement Between God and Man, Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 5, 1899, p. 454).
 - d. "The human body of flesh, which Jesus Christ laid down forever as a ransom sacrifice, was disposed of by God's power..." (*Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie*, 1965, p. 354).
 - e. "was disposed of by Jehovah God, dissolved into its constituent elements or atoms." (*The Watchtower*, 1st October 1955, p. 518.).
2. The Bible teaches?
- a. Summarize the points made and/or conclusions from the following scriptures:
 - (1) John 2:19-22 _____
 - (2) Acts 2:29-32 _____
 - (3) Acts 13:32-37 _____
 - (4) Acts 17:31 _____
 - (5) Luke 24:37-39 _____
 - (6) 1 Cor. 15:35-55, esp. vss. 42-44, 50-54 _____
 - (7) Romans 10:9 _____
 - (8) Acts 1:3-4, 9-11 _____
3. Does the Bible describe Jesus as being "dead, forever dead", the resurrection of Christ as a "restoration to life of the nonexistent dead", and Jesus having been raised with a spiritual body over which He materialized His earthly appearance to fool others or did Jesus undergo a bodily resurrection with the same body that went in the grave, which did not see corruption and which has now put on incorruption and in which Christ has ascended to the right hand of God? _____

B. The Kingdom of God

Review previous study regarding the fallacy of the 144,000 and false prophecies of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society regarding 1914-1918 (and all others for that matter).

In order to understand Jehovah-Witness teaching about the so-called "1st Resurrection" or "return" or "second presence" of Christ, we must first examine their doctrine of the kingdom of God.

- 1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "The Kingdom of God is a Sovereign-empowered theocratic government under

an administration of divinely appointed Kings. Jehovah himself is the great Everlasting King. . . . He has taken into association as co-regent his Son Christ Jesus. God has purposed the Kingdom as the capital or ruling part of his universal organization. It is comprised of the King Christ Jesus and 144,000 associate kings taken from among men. It is entirely heavenly, having no earthly part. All becoming members **must be resurrected and given spirit bodies.**" *Make Sure of All Things*, p. 226 (emphasis mine)

- b. "But does Christ rule alone? No, men and women from upon the earth have been raised out of death to heavenly life to rule with him. Revelation 14:1,3 gives their number as a 'hundred and forty four thousand.' That is how many people will reign in heaven with Christ. This 'little flock' of his faithful followers began to be chosen when the holy spirit was poured out upon the first 120 of them on the day of Pentecost in the year 33.

When did these members of God's spiritual nation begin to live with Christ in heaven? Not as soon as **Christ received his kingly power in 1914**. but they began to live with him in heaven a few years later...

Time periods like these are found during Jesus' second presence. **In 1914 Jesus was crowned as king of the new world.** Three and a half years after that, or in 1918, he cleansed Jehovah's spiritual temple. We know that this happened then because that is when Christians who had selfish hearts and wrong ideas toward his service dropped out of his organization. So, to fit the picture of 1900 years ago, it was only a very short time after the temple's cleansing, and still in the same year of 1918, that the heavenly resurrection of faithful dead Christians happened unseen to us and these members of the spiritual nation began living with Christ." *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, page 213. (emphasis mine)

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. What did Jesus say about the kingdom of God?

- (1) Mark 1:15 _____
- (2) Matthew 12:28 _____
- (3) Mark 9:1 _____

- b. Where do the following state Christ is now seated?

- (1) Acts 2:29-36 _____
- (2) Mark 16:19 _____
- (3) Acts 5:31 _____
- (4) Ephesians 1:20-22 _____
- (5) Colossians 3:1 _____

- c. What is Jesus called and when?

- (1) Acts 2:36 _____
- (2) 1 Timothy 1:17 _____

- d. What did Paul confirm was true for the Colossian Christians?

(1) Colossians 1:13 _____

3. Does the Bible describe the kingdom of God being established in 1914 or was it established with the ascension of Christ following the resurrection? _____

II. Doctrine of the End Times

A. Chronological Event Overview

1. Following is a summary of the various events of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's doctrine concerning last things and when they occur in the sequence of things.
 - a. Kingdom of God established in 1914 with Christ as co-regent. He "moved" from right hand of God to the throne at the right hand of God.
 - b. The events of Rev. 12:1-9 occur coincidentally. Satan is thrown down to earth and vents his rage on the people of the earth, hence WWI.
 - c. Christ "comes into his temple", i.e. the spiritual temple is cleansed.
 - d. In 1918 those of the 144,000 anointed class who had died were raised with spiritual bodies to reign with Christ.
 - e. Between 1918 and Armageddon (was to happen very soon, is to happen very soon, is not long from now, etc. etc.) the requirement is to work to proclaim the kingdom and the day of vengeance and to expose Satan's organization.
 - (1) Only members of Jehovah's Witnesses (Anointed Class or Other Class) will survive Armageddon & no one who dies at the battle of Armageddon will be raised; therefore Jehovah's Witnesses preach with great urgency. It is be as member of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society or die (be annihilated).
 - f. Battle of Armageddon occurs with Christ and His armies against the visible and invisible armies of Satan - the Anointed Class remnant and Other Sheep will not need to fight.
 - (1) At the end of the battle of Armageddon, Satan and his demons are cast into the abyss to await the end of the millennium.
 - g. The Millennium
 - (1) Earth is cleansed of evil and becomes a new paradise on earth. Only two classes of people will die during this period - the remnant who survived the battle of Armageddon (Anointed Class to heaven) and those who refuse to obey God (annihilated). There will be marriage and child birth throughout this period.
 - (2) The "resurrection of life" occurs early in the millennium. This group is made up of those 'faithful witnesses' before the death and resurrection of Christ, and the "other sheep" who have died before the battle of Armageddon.
 - (3) The "resurrection of judgment" will occur later in the millennium and

includes "those persons whose hearts may have been wanting to do right, but who died without ever having had an opportunity to hear of God's purposes or to learn what he expects of men" (*From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*).

- (a) These will all have to be taught (by the faithful Jehovah's Witnesses of course) and those who obey will receive life on an earthly paradise; those that fail the test will be annihilated.
- (4) The willfully wicked (Adam and Eve, Cain, Sodom, Judas, etc.) will have no resurrection/recreation.
- h. The final judgment comes at the end of the 1000 year reign. By this time everyone will have been fully restored to perfection. All dwellers upon the earth will be subjected to the test.
- i. This last test will occur as Satan and his demons are loosed for a little while and will attempt to lead those on the earth away from God. Those that follow Satan will be destroyed by fire from heaven along with Satan and his demons.
- j. Thereafter all those remaining on earth will live "everlasting" in human bodies on the new earth (paradise).
- k. The 144,000 will spend eternity reigning with Christ in heaven "as his joint heirs and co-rulers in Jehovah's glorious Theocracy." *Let God be True*, p. 132

B. The "First Resurrection"

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
 - a. "When he [Christ] ascended to heaven he sat down at God's right hand to wait for that time of entering into his authority and ruling like Melchizedek over his enemies as his footstool." *This Means Everlasting Life*, p. 220
 - b. "... Jehovah the heavenly Father brought forth his kingdom by bringing forth his anointed King-Priest Jesus Christ and elevating him to the active kingship in the throne at God's right hand." *You May Survive Armageddon*, p. 100
 - c. "This second presence (parousia) of Christ the Messiah was to be invisible and the unmistakable sign he gave shows conclusively that this return of Christ began in the year 1914. Since that time Christ has turned his attention toward earth's affairs and is dividing the people and educating the true Christians in preparation for their survival during the great storm of Armageddon..." *Make Sure of All Things*, p. 319
 - d. Since the 'return' was an invisible one, it can only be "recognized by the eyes of one's understanding..." *Let God Be True*, p. 198
 - e. "The Kingdom of God... is comprised of the King Christ Jesus and 144,000 associate kings taken from among men... It is entirely heavenly, having no earthly part. All becoming members **must be resurrected** and **given spirit bodies**." *Make Sure of All Things*, p. 226 (emphasis mine)
2. The Bible teaches?
 - a. The doctrine concerning the 144,000 based upon Rev. 14:3-5, 7:4-17, and

John 10:16. Review the section in your previous lesson (Prophetic Speculations) which refutes the whole Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society's doctrine of 144,000.

- (1) If the Word of God does not support the doctrine of 144,000, what does that say about a doctrine ('the first resurrection') that is integral with it? _____

b. How does the Bible describe Christ's 2nd coming (return)?

- (1) Acts 1:9-11 _____
(2) 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16 _____
(3) Matthew 25:31-32 _____
(4) 2 Peter 3:10 _____

3. Does the Bible describe the return of Christ as some invisible activity, unseen and unknown, and resulting in no particular visible change on earth or will Christ's return be visible to all, "universe-shattering", accompanied by heavenly hosts and judgment of all mankind? _____

C. The "Resurrection of Life"

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:

- a. This, and the resurrection of Judgment, is based on John 5:28-29. It will occur right after Armageddon, during the early years of the millennium, according to the Witnesses. Those killed in Armageddon will not be raised. Neither will deliberate sinners, those beyond correction, Adam and Eve, Cain, those who died in the flood or in Sodom, Judas, and so forth. They have ceased to exist and will not be brought back, which is their punishment. The resurrection of life is for the faithful of Old and New Testament times. Those servants of God still alive now will survive Armageddon. The dead worthies will be raised in improved physical bodies to live here on earth. Some worthies of old, along with a few current leaders, will become princes and rulers during the millennium. These dead princes will be raised first, then the rest of the Witnesses will be raised who died before Armageddon. (See *Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, page 227ff, and *You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World*, page 334ff).
- b. "The 'resurrection of life' includes the 'first resurrection,' which is the resurrection to instantaneous perfection of life, spirit life, in which Jesus himself participated and in which only the 144,000 joint heirs participate with him." *You May Survive Armageddon into God's New World*, page 354-55
- (1) Note - if it takes the Jehovah's Witnesses version of resurrection to produce "instantaneous perfection of life", what does that say about Jesus while on earth? _____

2. The Bible teaches?

- a. What does Paul say to comfort the Thessalonians regarding the events associated with the coming of Christ? Is there any time elapsed between the

- events in this description (e.g. months/years)? 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17? _____
- b. How many resurrections are in view in John 5:28-29 _____
3. Does the Bible describe a 'resurrection of life' apart from the resurrection of all men from the grave or that such a resurrection would include only 'faithful witnesses' prior to the resurrection of Christ and 'other sheep' since then or does it describe a day in which Christ will come known to all and resurrect all of the dead and judge all men? _____

D. The "Resurrection of Judgment"

1. The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society teaches:
- a. "...the 'resurrection of judgment' is for those persons whose hearts may have been wanting to do right, but who died without ever having had an opportunity to hear of God's purposes or to learn what he expects of men. Many of these may have been decent people. They may have been sincere in their belief. But still they 'practiced vile things.' They had no opportunity to learn of righteousness from God. So they will get that opportunity. They will get it in the 'resurrection of judgment.'"
- "These people will be brought back into the paradise earth. They will be taught the truth. They will be shown what is right. Then they will be judged according to what they do about it. If they obey God's commands they will get life. If they do not obey God's commands they will go into everlasting death, just as Adam did after he deliberately disobeyed God." *From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained*, p. 229
2. The Bible teaches?
- a. When will ungodly men be judged? 2 Peter 3:7 _____
- b. When will the godly and ungodly be judged? John 5:28-29 _____
- c. When will judgment occur and what will be the outcome? Matt. 25:31-36 _____
- d. After death, will men have a 2nd chance for redemption? Hebrews 9:27 _____
3. Does the Bible describe a 'resurrection of judgment' apart from the resurrection of all men from the grave or that such a resurrection would include having a 'second chance' for salvation or does it describe a day in which Christ will come known to all and resurrect all of the dead and judge all men? _____

Jehovah's Witnesses - Teaching a Witness

I. Some Considerations

A. Recognize & Deal with the Question of Authority

1. Do you have any credibility with a Jehovah's Witness? Why or why not? _____

2. Is the Bible authoritative for a Jehovah's Witness? Why or why not? _____

3. What do Jehovah's Witnesses accept as their authority? _____

B. Demonstrate that the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society is not Reliable or Trustworthy

1. Review: What is a cult? _____
2. What are some characteristics of a cult:
3. What might be used to undermine the Jehovah's Witness trust in the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society? _____

C. Destroying a Witness' Blind Allegiance

1. What is the simplest and clearest way to sow the seed of doubt in a Jehovah's Witness' confidence in the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society? _____

2. Suggested approach
 - a. Establish how one determines a true prophet - what tools can you use? _____

- b. Establish the success rate of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (and its predecessors going back to Russell) in meeting this test. How can this be done?

- c. If the Watchtower has been false in its prophecies what does that say about its trustworthiness? What about its doctrines? _____

Mormonism - Historical Overview

I. Mormonism's View of Authority

A. Mormon Religious Texts

The LDS, and most other Mormons denominations, recognize four source texts as divinely inspired and authoritative scripture. These are called the "Standard Works":

1. The King James translation
2. The Book of Mormon
 - a. As supposedly translated from the original six golden plates and published in 1830.
 - b. It was translated into Danish in 1851. Currently, the full book has been translated into 72 languages; parts of it have been printed in an additional 32 languages.¹⁸
3. Doctrine and Covenants
 - a. A group of 138 'revelations from God'
 - (1) 135 were recorded by Joseph Smith,
 - (2) One was added by each of: John Taylor, Brigham Young, and Joseph F. Smith.
4. The Pearl of Great Price
 - a. This small book of LDS scripture, first published in 1851, contains the books of Moses, Abraham, Joseph Smith-Matthew, Joseph Smith-History and the Articles of Faith.
5. Other Texts
 - a. The following books are considered to contain material of great historical and spiritual significance to Mormons, but are not canonized as scripture:
 - (1) History of the Church: 7 volumes mostly written at the time of Joseph Smith. They document the early history of the church.
 - (2) Journal of Discourses: 26 volumes from past General Authorities, who were close associates of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.
 - (3) Lectures on Faith: 7 lectures prepared by Joseph Smith and delivered in the 'School of the Prophets.' They discuss theology, the nature of God and the principles of faith.
 - (4) The Inspired Translation of the Bible: a revision of the King James Version

¹⁸ "The Ensign," the official magazine of the LDS Church, 2004-SEP, Page

of the Bible by Joseph Smith.

- (5) Other writings, such as conference reports, collected writings of modern prophets, etc.

B. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS, Mormons) View of Authority

1. The "Standard Works"

a. The Book of Mormon

- (1) Joseph Smith - Book of Mormon contains the "fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also" *Doctrine and Covenants* 20:8-9 (April 1830)
- (2) Joseph Smith - "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." *History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 461 (1841)
- (3) Orson Pratt (a Mormon prophet) - "The Book of Mormon claims to be a divinely inspired record. ... This book must be either true or false... If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God to man ... "If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world ... "If, after rigid examination, it be found an imposition, it should be extensively published to the world as such... " *Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon*, p. 1 (1850)

b. The Doctrine & Covenants

- (1) Joseph Smith - "Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; ... but all shall be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same." *Doctrine and Covenants* 1:37-38 (November 1, 1831)
- (2) Joseph Smith - "... We do not present this little volume with any other expectation than that we are to be called to answer to every principle advanced ..." *Doctrine and Covenants*, p. iv (1835 ed.)
- (3) Daniel H. Wells(served as Brigham Young's counselor for twenty years) - "The Book of Doctrine and Covenants informs us that things will be revealed, in this the dispensation of the fullness of times, that have been kept hidden from before the foundation of the world. Should we be surprised, then, when a new principle is manifested among us from the Lord through the channel of the holy Priesthood?" *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 18, p. 98 (1875)

c. The Pearl of Great Price

- (1) "What Scriptures Do We Have Today — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accepts four books as scripture: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. These books are called the standard works of the Church. The inspired words of our living prophets are also accepted as scripture." *Gospel Principles*, p.

52 (1992)

- (2) Bruce McConkie (Mormon Apostle) wrote, "By the standard works of the Church is meant the following four volumes of scripture: The Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price.... having been revealed in modern times in English, are accepted without qualification" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 764)
- d. The Bible - KJV (in statement & practice, they hold the **Bible to be the least reliable** of these "Standard Works"). Note: emphasis mine
 - (1) Joseph Smith - "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." *Pearl of Great Price, Articles of Faith*, 8-9 (1842)
 - (2) "[when] the book [the Bible] proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew...it contained the fullness of the gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record" (1 Nephi 13:24), but that afterwards "thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church...after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God. And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles" (*Book of Mormon*, 1 Nephi 13:26,28). See also *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol.3, p.190-191.
 - (3) Joseph Smith stated: "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was more correct than any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding its precepts, than by any other book" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.194).

2. Additional Revelation

- a. Mormons claim to have present day prophets (President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) and continuing revelation.
 - (1) The president or 'prophet' of the Church
 - (a) Joseph Smith was the initial prophet, but each successive president holds this position. Through him God's will can be made known to the church.
 - (b) "Throughout history, God has chosen prophets, such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others, to teach the gospel and direct His Church (Amos 3:7). It is no different today. We all need God's guidance in a world that is sometimes confusing. Because God loves His children, He continues to send living prophets. Joseph Smith (1805–44) was the first prophet of our time. Gordon B. Hinckley is God's chosen prophet today." (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints web site¹⁹)

- (c) Latter-day Saints "shalt give heed unto all his [the prophet s] words and commandments . . . For his word ye shall receive as if from mine [God's] own mouth" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 21:4-5).
 - (2) All revelations are made scripture and no Mormon can attain godhood without accepting Joseph Smith as a true prophet.
 - (3) The Living Prophet is the first line of authority for the Mormons. The present Prophet can overturn any prior teaching of a past Prophet, including that of Joseph Smith.
- b. Other writings
- (1) The Mormon 'prophets' claim their word to be scripture, i.e. the "Word of God"
 - (a) Brigham Young stated "In my doctrinal teachings I have taught many things not written in any book . . . I have never looked into the Bible, the Book of Mormon, or the Doctrine and Covenants, or any of our Church works to see whether they agreed with them or not. When I have spoken by the power of God and the Holy Ghost, it is the truth, it is scripture, and I have no fears but that it will agree with all that has been revealed in every particular."²⁰
 - (b) Young believed he spoke under divine inspiration and that, therefore, his transcribed lectures were literally scripture: "I say now, when they are copied and approved by me they are as good Scripture as is couched in this Bible" and, "I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call it Scripture. Let me have the privilege of correcting a sermon, and it is as good Scripture as they deserve. The people have the oracles of God continually"²¹
 - (c) "President Ezra Taft Benson is the 13th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, his inspired words are considered by members of the Church to be the word of God. President Benson has been uniquely prepared by the Lord to serve as His mouthpiece to the whole world. . . . The excerpts that make up this teaching volume have come from his speeches or public writings after he was called to the apostleship and sustained as a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator... President Benson personally reviewed the entire manuscript, as did his counselors in the First Presidency."²²
 - (2) When 'new light' contradicts past 'revelations' then Mormons are faced

¹⁹ www.mormon.org/learn/0,8672,1092-1,00.html

²⁰ *Deseret Weekly News*, 26:274

²¹ *Journal of Discourses*

²² *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, vi-vii

with a major problem

3. Why books other than the Bible - Mormon claims

- a. "Wherefore, because you have a Bible you need not suppose that it contains all my (God's) words; neither need you suppose that I have not caused more to be written. 2 Nephi 29:10

(1) What did Peter say? 2 Pet. 1:3 _____

(2) What did Jude claim? Jude 3 _____

- b. "The foundation of a great and abominable church (Catholic church - *w/o*), which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men. Wherefore, thou seest that after the book (Bible - *w/o*) hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book". 1 Nephi 13:26-28

(1) What did Peter claim? 1 Pet. 1:23-25 _____

- c. "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" - so says the subtitle on the cover of current copies of the Book of Mormon.

(1) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints often puts the Bible and Book of Mormon together and say they are two witnesses for the same message using 2 Cor. 13:1 and Deut. 19:15 to justify it. What is wrong with this 'logic'? _____

(2) What did Paul tell the Romans he had done? Rom. 15:19 _____

(3) What was Paul's warning? Gal. 1:6-9 _____

(4) What did Jesus promise the apostles? John 14:26 _____

(5) With what did Jesus charge the apostles? Matt. 28:19-20 _____

(a) How should one interpret this in view of the audience of Matt. 28? Deut. 4:2 _____

(6) What was the warning given in Rev. 22:18? _____

II. Mormonism's Founder and Creator

A. Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844)

1. The importance of Joseph Smith in Mormon theology cannot be overemphasized. Brigham Young, the church's second president, boasted:
 - a. "Well, now, examine the character of the Savior, and examine the characters of those who have written the Old and New Testament; and then compare them with the character of Joseph Smith, the founder of this work ... and you will find that his character stands as fair as that of any man's mentioned in the Bible. We can find no person who presents a better character to the world when the facts are known than Joseph Smith, Jun., the prophet, and his brother, Hyrum Smith, who was murdered with him" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 14, p.203).
 - b. "... no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith.... Every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are ... I cannot go there without his consent.... He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p.289).
 - c. ... I am an Apostle of Joseph Smith.... all who reject my testimony will go to hell, so sure as there is one, no matter whether it be hot or cold ... (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 3, p.212).
 - d. "I will now give my scripture - "Whosoever confesseth that Joseph Smith was sent of God ... that spirit is of God; and every spirit that does not confess that God has sent Joseph Smith, and revealed the everlasting Gospel to and through him, is of Anti-christ ..." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 8, p.176).
2. Born 1805 Vermont, the fifth of eleven children of Joseph Smith and Lucy Mack
 - a. Parents were known to be "Seekers" - 'Christians' who were not affiliated with a church, but which respected the teachings of all denominations
 - b. The family of Joseph Smith Jr. moved to western New York in 1816; known as the "Burned-Over-District", because it was overwhelmed with one fire of religious revival after another
 - c. In his teens, his mother and most of the rest of the family converted to Presbyterianism
 - d. Joseph deeply troubled by the multiplicity of Christian sects
3. His reputation among those who knew him
 - a. "... by reason of the extravagancies of his statement, his word was received with the least confidence by those who knew him best. He could utter the most palpable exaggeration or marvelous absurdity with the utmost apparent gravity" (Pomeroy Tucker, *Origin, Rise and Progress of Mormonism*, p. 16, 1867, New York).
 - b. Some sixty-two residents of Palmyra, New York signed the following statement:

"We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with the Smith family for a number of years, while they resided near this place. We have no hesitation in saying that we consider them destitute of that moral character which ought to entitle them to the confidence of any community. They were particularly famous for visionary projects; spent much of their time in digging for money which they pretended was hid in the earth, and a large excavation may be seen in the earth not far from their residence where they used to spend their time in digging for hidden treasures. Joseph Smith, Sr., and his son, Joseph, were in particular considered entirely destitute of moral character and addicted to vicious habits." (E.D. Howe, *Mormonism Unveiled*, Zanesville, Ohio, 1834, p. 261).

4. Reportedly received his first 'vision' in 1820, at the age of 14 in Palmyra, NY
 - a. Claimed God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared before Joseph as separate entities and told him that all of the Christian sects and denominations were in error and that he should not join any of them. However, he should anticipate a major personal assignment in the future.
 - b. Worth noting that this is the first 'miraculous' event for which there is no witness AND whose dating is challenged by Smith's own inconsistencies
 - c. The official version of Smith's first vision was first published in the *Times and Seasons* in 1842, which was 22 years after Smith said it happened
 - d. In Smith's own 1832-34 diary he said it he was 16 when the vision came and nowhere does it mention the Father
 - (1) In the official "first vision" story, Smith said he was visited by God the Father and Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Brigham Young said when Mormonism began, "The Lord did not come - but He did send His angel" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. II, p. 171).
 - (b) Wilford Woodruff, the fourth LDS prophet, also said that Mormonism "commenced by an angel of God flying through the midst of heaven and visiting a young man named Joseph Smith, in the year 1827." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol XIII, p. 324).
5. During this period Smith was actively engaged (with his father and others) in "money-digging"
 - a. New York legal records in *The People vs. Joseph Smith The Glass Looker*, dated March 20, 1826, reveal that he was brought to trial on charges of money digging - using a "peep stone" to locate hidden treasure.²³
 - b. The following is taken from an affidavit by Isaac Hale, Smith's father-in-law: "I first became acquainted with Joseph Smith, Jr. in November, 1825. He was at that time in the employ of a set of men who were called "money-diggers;" and his occupation was that of seeing, or pretending to see by means of a stone placed in his hat, and his hat closed over his face. In this way he pretended to

²³ Reed, D. A., & Farkas, J. R., *Mormons: Answered Verse by Verse*

discover minerals and hidden treasures.." (Affidavit of Isaac Hale, as printed in the Susquehanna Register, May 1, 1834)

6. The second 'vision' supposedly happened three years later
 - a. According to his own account (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith - History 1:29-54), he was paid a bedside visit by the angel Moroni in 1823.
 - (1) Moroni, who professed to be the glorified son of a man named Mormon (who had been dead 1400 years),
 - (2) Told of a book of golden plates which contained "the fulness of the everlasting Gospel."
 - (3) Told the seventeen-year-old boy that there "was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the sources from whence they sprang"
 - b. Four years later (1827), Joe supposedly dug up the golden plates. "Deposited with these plates were the Urim and Thummim, transparent stones in silver bowls fastened to the breastplate, which were to be used to help translate the book".
 - (1) Joseph Smith claimed that his Urim and Thummim consisted of "two stones in silver bows" (History of the Church, vol. 1, p.12). It would appear, then, that Joseph Smith fastened two of his "seer stones" together to make his "Urim and Thummim." The testimony given in the 1826 trial shows that as early as 1826 Joseph Smith was using two different stones.
 - (2) The following is taken from the affidavit by Isaac Hale:
 - (a) "...Smith stated to me, that he had given up what he called "glass-looking," and that he expected to work hard for a living.... He also made arrangements with my son Alva Hale, to go up to Palmyra, and move his (Smith's) furniture &c. to this place.... Soon after this, I was informed they had brought a wonderful book of Plates down with them.... The manner in which he pretended to read and interpret, was the same as when he looked for the money-diggers, with the stone in his hat, and his hat over his face, while the Book of Plates were at the same time hid in the woods! (Affidavit of Isaac Hale, as printed in the Susquehanna Register, May 1, 1834).
 - c. Smith translated portions of the plates from December 1827 to February 1828, using Emma Smith and her brother Reuben as scribes. There are various reports as to how Smith accomplished his translations
 - d. The scribes never physically saw the gold plates during translation, however, 11 men plus Mary Whitmer, who boarded with Smith and his wife during the translation, claimed to have been shown the plates (see Golden Plates).
 - (1) Martin Harris acted as scribe for Smith's translations from April to June of 1828.
 - e. In early April, 1829, Smith began translating again, with Oliver Cowdery as scribe. When translation was complete (1830), Smith returned the plates to Moroni.

7. 'Appearances' to Smith and Oliver Cowdery (1829)
 - a. John the Baptist
 - (1) Ordained them with the Priesthood of Aaron
 - b. Peter, James and John
 - (1) Conferred the Melchizedek Priesthood on them
8. Later that same year established the "Church of Jesus Christ,"

9. Although he denied polygamy publically he had at least 34 wives:

Wife	Date	Age	Husband*
Emma Hale	Jan 1827	22	George W. Harris
Fanny Alger	1833	16	
Lucinda Morgan Harris	1838	37	
Louisa Beaman	Apr 1841	26	
Zina Huntington Jacobs	Oct 1841	20	Henry Jacobs
Presendia Huntington Buell	Dec 1841	31	Norman Buell
Agnes Coolbrith	Jan 1842	33	Windsor Lyon
Sylvia Sessions Lyon	Feb 1842	23	
Mary Rollins Lightner	Feb 1842	23	
Patty Bartlett Sessions	Mar 1842	47	
Marinda Johnson Hyde	Apr 1842	27	Orson Hyde
Elizabeth Davis Durfee	Jun 1842	50	Jabez Durfee
Sarah Kingsley Cleveland	Jun 1842	53	John Cleveland
Delcena Johnson	Jul 1842	37	Edward Sayers
Eliza R. Snow	Jun 1842	38	
Sarah Ann Whitney	Jul 1842	17	
Martha McBride Knight	Aug 1842	37	
Ruth Vose Sayers	Feb 1843	33	
Flora Ann Woodworth	Spring 1843	16	
Emily Dow Partridge	Mar 1843	19	
Eliza Maria Partridge	Mar 1843	22	
Almera Johnson	Apr 1843	30	
Lucy Walker	May 1843	17	
Sarah Lawrence	May 1843	17	
Maria Lawrence	May 1843	19	
Helen Mar Kimball	May 1843	14	
Hanna Ells	Mid 1843	29	
Elvira Cowles Holmes	Jun 1843	29	Jonathan Holmes
Rhoda Richards	Jun 1843	58	Jonathan Holmes
Desdemona Fullmer	Jul 1843	32	
Olive Frost	Mid 1843	27	
Melissa Lott	Sep 1843	19	
Nancy Winchester	1843	14	
Fanny Young	Nov 1843	56	
* Living Husband at the time of Marriage to Joseph Smith			

10. Later lesson will look at Smith's 'prophecies' and see if he stands up to the test

III. Brief History of Smith and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

A. 1830-1837

1. The new church moves to Kirtland, Ohio, near Cleveland, where it grows to almost 1600 affiliates.
2. Built first temple
 - a. Members 'experience' a number of 'extraordinary' events
3. Smith tarred and feathered in 1832; lost 2 children
4. In 1835 the practice of polygamy is publicly denied.

B. 1838-1839

1. Smith moves to Clay County Missouri in 1838
 - a. Period as marked by mob violence and legal difficulties
 - (1) Mormons were anti-slavery; in addition, Mormons purchased vast amounts of land, in which to establish settlements.
 - (2) Non-Mormons believed that the church was promoting the establishment of a religious dictatorship (a theocracy).
 - (3) Mormon's belief that the Book of Mormon was the revealed work of God, with the same status Bible
 - b. Battle of Crooked River leading to "Extermination Order" (officially rescinded in 1976)
 - c. Smith and others jailed for treason; never tried but allowed to escape into Illinois (1839)

C. 1840-1845

1. City of Nauvoo, Illinois founded in 1840
2. Joseph Smith publicly denies charges of polygamy in 1842 while secretly practicing it.
 - a. Orange Wight Autobiography, BYU, pg. 8-9 (1903)
 - (1) "I now come to that part of my story that you will be most likely interested in, which regard the doctrine taught by the Prophet Joseph Smith in regard to the plural marriage system After we got in the house Sister Woodworth took me in another room and told me that Flora was one of Joseph's wives. I was aware or believed that Eliza R. Snow and two of Partridge girls were his wives but was not informed about Flora. But now Sister Woodworth gave me all the information necessary, so I knew Joseph believed and practiced polygamy." (Date of marriages: Prior to 1842)

- b. Mary Lightner 1905 Address, typescript, BYU, pg. 2-3
 - (1) "Two of his sisters were Joseph's wives. Emma took them by the hand and gave them to Joseph..... I went forward and was sealed to him [Joseph Smith]. Brigham Young performed the sealing, and Heber C. Kimball the blessing. I know he had six wives and I have known some of them from childhood up. I knew he had three children. They told me. I think two are living today but they are not known as his children as they go by other names." (Date of marriage to Mary Lightner: February 1842)
- c. Helen Whitney "Scenes in Nauvoo," WE 11 (1882), pg. 146
 - (1) "It was not until the summer of after he had gone east that I learned of the existence of the plural order of marriage, and that the spring of 1842 had seen his sister Sarah Ann the wife of Joseph Smith." (Date of marriage of Sarah Ann: July 27, 1842)
- 3. Nauvoo becomes the second largest city in Illinois, after Chicago. Joseph Smith is mayor and lieutenant-general of the militia.
- 4. The Nauvoo Expositor publishes its first and only issue on June 7, 1844 - an exposé of Mormon polygamy
 - a. As mayor Smith has printing press and office of paper destroyed.
- 5. Smith is jailed in Carthage, Illinois, on the charge of "treason" in connection with the Expositor incident.
 - a. On June 27, 1844 Smith is killed

IV. Brief History Under the Presidency of Brigham Young

A. Brigham Young (1801-1877)

- 1. Early years
 - a. Born in Whitingham, Vt., 1801 to a poor family
 - (1) At three, the family moved to an area of New York where religious mysticism and revivalism were strong.
 - b. He had only two months of formal education and became a house painter and glazier
 - c. At the age of 22, became a Methodist.
 - d. Married Miriam Works, and they settled at Mendon, N.Y., in 1829.
- 2. Involvement with the Mormon movement
 - a. In 1832 Young was baptized into the new Mormon Church and became very active in it.
 - b. The following year he moved to Kirtland, Ohio, to form a Mormon church.
 - c. Rose to power within Smith's organization

- d. By 1838 he was the senior member of the Quorum of the Apostles
- e. Became the Church's leading fiscal agent.
- f. After the death of Joseph Smith in 1844, the Mormons found themselves in a quandary.
 - (1) Faced with continued harassment from their neighbors
 - (2) Several LDS leaders were vying for Smith's mantle
- g. Brigham Young took over the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints leadership

B. 1846-1879

1. To escape U.S. laws, Brigham Young leads Mormon migration from Illinois to Utah (which then belonged to Mexico) in 1846.
1. Brigham Young officially becomes the second prophet of the LDS Church. (*Deseret News Church Almanac*, 19n, p. 92). (1847)
2. United States President Millard Fillmore appoints Brigham Young governor of Utah Territory. (1851)
3. In 1852 he begins to teach the "Adam-God" doctrine
 - a. "When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael the Archangel the Ancient of Days! About whom holy men have written and spoken -- He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, p. 50).
 - b. "Some years ago (9 to be exact) I advanced a doctrine with regard to Adam being our Father and God. That will be a curse to many of the elders of Israel because of their folly with regard to it. They yet grovel in darkness and will. It is one of the most glorious revealments of the economy of heaven. Yet the world holds it in derision." (*Manuscript Addresses of Brigham Young*, Oct 8, 1861).
4. One year later Brigham Young publicly announces plural marriage as official LDS Church policy.
 - a. "Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned." (*Journal of Discourses* vol.3 p.266) (*Deseret News*, Nov. 14, 1855).
5. Many members disgruntled - will eventually lead to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
6. Young builds upon Smith's belief in "blood atonement" and begins strongly promoting it
 - a. "I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain, in order to atone for their sins ... This is loving our neighbor as ourselves, if he needs help, help him, and if he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his

blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 4, p. 220).

- b. "There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it; and the judgments of the Almighty will come, sooner or later, and every man and woman will have to atone for breaking their covenants. To what degree? Will they have to go to hell? They are in hell enough now. I do not wish them in a greater hell, when their consciences condemn them all the time. Let compassion reign in our bosoms. Try to comprehend how weak we are, how we are organized, how the spirit and the flesh are continually at war." (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.385)
- 7. Anti-Mormon outcries prompt President James Buchanan to send United States troops into Utah to install a non-Mormon governor.
- 8. Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints officially set up at Amboy, Illinois, with Joseph Smith III as President and Prophet.
- 9. Morrill Act prohibiting plural marriage
- 10. Young spent most of his "ministry" dodging the law to continue the immoral practice of polygamy. At the time of his death in 1877, Young had seventeen wives and fifty-six children.

B. 1880-1896

- 1. Several federal laws enacted during the period
 - a. Federal government passes Edmunds Act with heavy penalties for polygamy; Mormon leaders are soon driven underground.
 - b. Edmunds-Tucker Act dissolving the Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and seizing its property.
 - (1) "The final blow for Mormon polygamy was the Supreme Court's decision in *The Late Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ vs. United States* which upheld the seizure of Church holdings by the federal government" (*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Vol. 21, No. 1, p. 120; see 1887, 1890b).
- 2. Congress drafts legislation to disenfranchise all Mormons in the United States, whether polygamists or not.
- 3. Results in Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints President Wilford Woodruff issues a Manifesto instructing Mormons to obey anti-polygamy laws. (September 25, 1890)
- 4. 1893 Salt Lake City, Utah, temple dedicated.
- 5. Utah admitted to the Union as a state on January 4, 1896

C. 1897-Present

1. Major doctrinal controversy regarding racism in latter half of 20th century (doctrine had been in force since priesthood was setup by Smith)
 - a. Mormon church taught slavery was God's way
2. Teaching (including prophecy) was that blacks
 - a. Were inferior race
 - (1) Joseph Fielding Smith- "Not only was Cain called upon to suffer, but because of his wickedness he became the father of an inferior race. A curse was placed upon him and that curse has been continued through his lineage and must do so while time endures. Millions of souls have come into this world cursed with a black skin..." (*The Way to Perfection*, p. 101)
 - b. Could not be part of the priesthood
 - (1) Bruce R. McConkie explains, "The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned, particularly the priesthood and the temple blessings that flow therefrom, but this inequality is not of man's origin. It is the Lord's doing, is based on his eternal laws of justice" (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1958 ed., p. 527-28)
3. Under much external pressure, there was another 'revelation' to change the policy in 1978
 - a. Spencer W. Kimball claims to receive revelation giving all "worthy males" the priesthood (*Deseret News*, June 9). This likewise grants permission to the Black race to be married in the Mormon temple and removes any built-in immunity Blacks had against becoming Mormons.
4. In recent years, Mormon leaders, including the church's modern-day "Prophet," Gordon B. Hinckley, have sought to align the LDS' public teachings and practices with those of politically correct, global ecumenicism.
5. Moreover, Mormons let it be known in early-2001 that they no longer wanted to be referred to as "the Mormon Church," "the Latter-day Saints Church," or by "LDS Church." If the name must be shortened, "the Church of Jesus Christ," or "the Church" is acceptable, they said (3/19/01, USN&WR).

IV. Statistics -1997

- United States5 Million
- Latin America3 Million
- Asian2 Million
- South Pacific & Africa 1/2 Million
- The Mormon Church was founded on April 6, 1830.
- It was originally called the Church of Jesus Christ.
- The official name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was adopted in 1837.
- Temples are sacred structures where special Mormon rites are practiced.
- The church built its first temple in 1836 in Kirtland, Ohio.
- There are more than 114 temples world wide with many more under construction as of Dec., 2002.

- The church distributes over 5 million copies of the Book of Mormon per year.
- There are approximately 800 converts to the Mormon church per day, 300,000 per year.
- There are approximately 60,000 full time missionaries world wide. Most of them are young males in their late teens to early twenties and spend 2 years in the field.
- There are 16 missionary training centers world-wide.
- There are thousands of Mormons who are in field service in different countries doing many charitable works ranging from doctors, to mechanics, to teachers, and more.
- Financial income is in excess of 2 million dollars per day.
- Its net worth holdings are in the billions of dollars.

Mormonism - Organizational Character

I. God's Organization (Review from Jehovah's Witnesses lesson)

A. The 'Universal' Organization (Church) of the Bible

1. Who is head of this 'organization'? Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20; Eph. 1:20-23, 5:23-24 ____

2. Who are the members of this 'organization'? Acts 2:41, 47; Heb. 12:23 _____

B. The 'Local' Organization (Church) of the Bible

1. What is the organization of a local church? Phil. 1:1, 27, 4:15; 1 Cor.1:2, 10 _____

2. Is there any other organization established in the New Testament for carrying out the work Christ has assigned to the church? _____

II. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Organization

A. Organizational Name

1. Mormons often claim that Christ's church will have His name in the name of the church, i.e. the official name of the LDS Church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
2. At least five different names (*Documentary History of the Church*, Vol. III, p. 24).
 - (1) Originally called the "Church of Christ" (see *Doctrines & Covenants*, 20:1, *Doctrines & Covenants*, copyright page, or 1833 *Book of Commandments*).
 - (2) Changed to the "Church of Latter Day Saints" (*Documentary History of the Church*, Vol. II, p. 63).
 - (3) Changed to the "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" as it is known today (*Doctrines & Covenants* 115:3-4).
 - (4) Known as the "Mormon Church", "LDS Church", and the "Latter-day Saints Church"
3. The Bible Teaches?

- a. What is the church of the New Testament called?
 - (1) Romans 16:16 _____
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 1:2 _____
 - (3) 1 Corinthians 11:16 _____
 - (4) 2 Corinthians 1:1 _____
 - (5) 1 Thessalonians 1:1 _____
 - (6) 2 Thessalonians 1:1 _____
 - (7) Hebrews 12:23 _____
- b. Does the church "of Christ" have a specific name? _____
- c. What is conveyed by the terms in the Bible versus used above? _____

B. Salvation Only in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

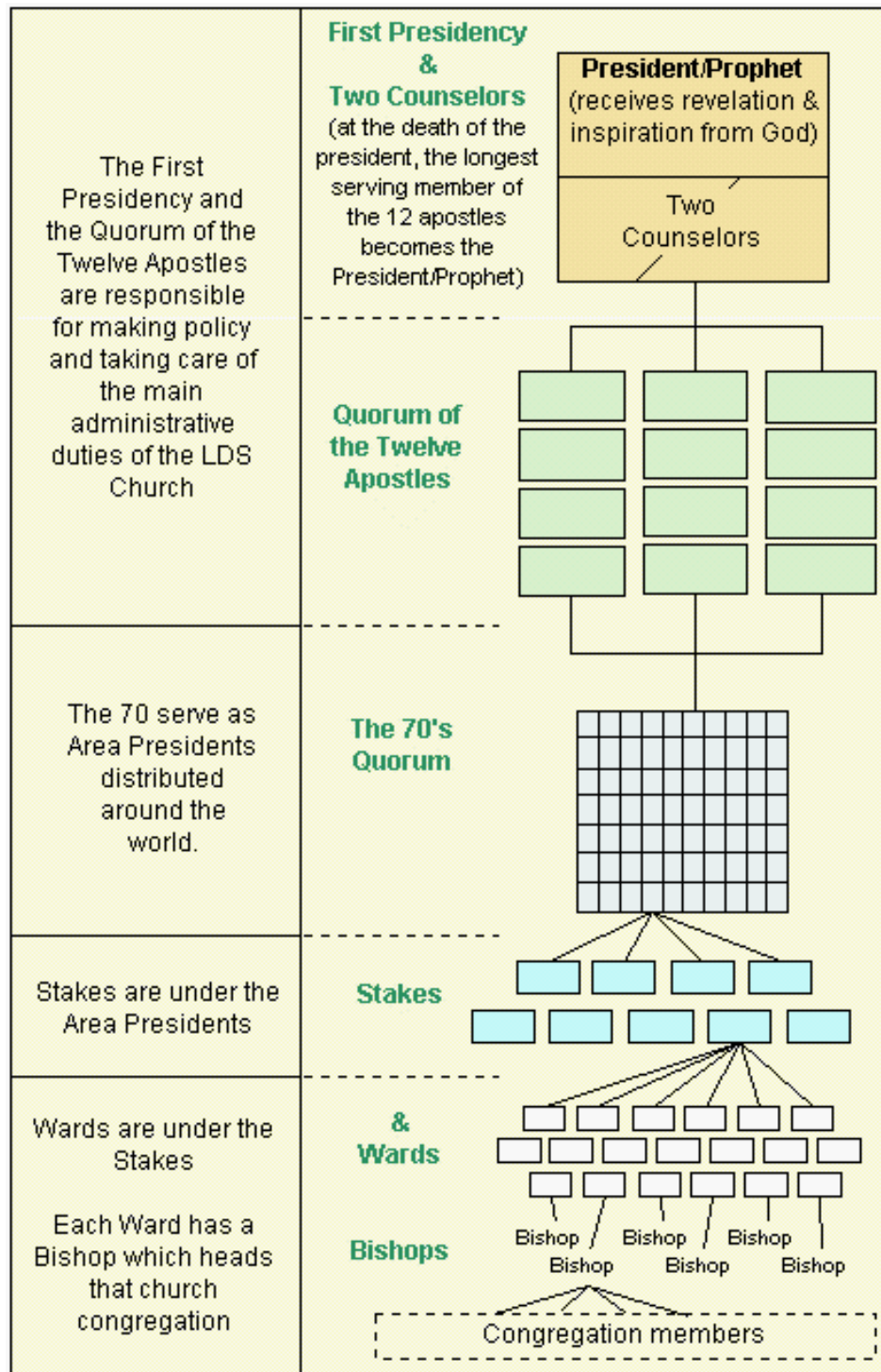
1. Mormons teach that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the only "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 1:30)
 - a. "Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil" (1 Nephi 14:10).
 - b. Smith also said, "Will everyone be damned, but Mormons? Yes, and a great portion of them, unless they repent, and work righteousness" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 119)
 - c. "If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670).
 - d. "The President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living because he is the only one by whose authorization the sealing power of the priesthood can be used to seal men up to salvation and exaltation in the kingdom of God." (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 132:7.) (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 411).
2. The Bible Teaches?
 - a. What did Christ promise in Matthew 16:18? _____
 - b. In whom was salvation promised according to the Holy Spirit through Peter? Acts 4:12 _____
 - c. To whom did Christ give the keys of the kingdom? Matt. 16:19; 18:18 _____
 - d. Is salvation based upon being a member of a denomination or any other organization of man? If so, scripture? _____
 - e. Does the church of Christ save? _____
 - f. According to Mormon teaching, without Smith and the 'restoration', there would

be no salvation for man. What does this say about Joseph Smith's importance relative to Christ's? _____

C. The Mormon "Denominations"

1. Factions have developed in the Mormon church over doctrine and/or leadership since the death of Joseph Smith resulting in a number of additional denominations
2. First major division when Young led group to Utah
 - a. The Community of Christ: about 250,000 members. This denomination was formerly known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
3. Other smaller groups include:
 - a. The Restoration Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
 - b. Aaronic Order: unknown membership; 6 centers; 20 ministers
 - c. Apostolic United Brethren: about 7,000 members. They disagree with the LDS' decision to allow ordination of Afro-Americans and allowing women to assume leadership positions.
 - d. Church of Christ (Fetting/Bronson): about 2000 members
 - e. Church of Christ (Temple Lot): about 2400 members
 - f. The Church of Christ "With The Elijah Message," established anew in 1929 12,500 members worldwide
 - g. Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonite): On the order of 10,000 members
 - h. United Order Effort: a polygyny practicing group, excommunicated by the main LDS church, of perhaps 10,000 members




D. The Organizational Hierarchy²⁴



²⁴ *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Macmillan Publishing Company

1. The General Authorities
2. First Presidency
3. The President
 - a. His duty is "to be like unto Moses" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 107:91-92; 28:2), relaying the will of God to his people and teaching them the gospel.
 - b. Claim his "work is somewhat analogous to that of Peter, who presided over the apostles and the early Christian Church."²⁵
 - (1) "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:13-20). Latter-day Saints understand the "rock" to be the divine revelation through which ancient and modern prophets have directed the membership of Christ's Church (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 274).
 - c. "The President of the Church, as prophet, will never be allowed by the Lord to lead members of the Church into apostasy or error" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, Official Declaration—1).

Presidents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

 <u>Joseph Smith Jr.</u> 1st President Served: 1830–1844	 <u>Brigham Young</u> 2nd President Served: 1847–1877	 <u>John Taylor</u> 3rd President Served: 1880–1887	 <u>Wilford Woodruff</u> 4th President Served: 1887–1898
 <u>Lorenzo Snow</u> 5th President Served: 1898–1901	 <u>Joseph F. Smith</u> 6th President Served: 1901–1918	 <u>Heber J. Grant</u> 7th President Served: 1918–1945	 <u>George Albert Smith</u> 8th President Served: 1945–1951
 <u>David O. McKay</u> 9th President Served: 1951–1970	 <u>Joseph Fielding Smith</u> 10th President Served: 1970–1972	 <u>Harold B. Lee</u> 11th President Served: 1972–1973	 <u>Spencer W. Kimball</u> 12th President Served: 1973–1985
 <u>Ezra Taft Benson</u> 13th President Served: 1985–1994	 <u>Howard W. Hunter</u> 14th President Served: 1994–1995	 <u>Gordon B. Hinckley</u> 15th President Served: 1995–	

Beginning with Joseph Smith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has always been led by a prophet of God. These prophets also serve as Presidents of the Church and direct the affairs of the Church.

4. Council of the First Presidency & the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

²⁵ *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Vol. 3, *President of the Church* by Macmillan Publishing Company

5. Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
6. The Seventy
7. Stakes
8. Wards
9. Other units - Branch and District
10. Other leadership positions/groups

"Chain of Command" of the LDS Church
The Lord Jesus Christ



Authority as viewed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

E. The 'Priesthood'

1. The Priesthood is a fundamental tenet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - a. Ezra Taft Benson, taught, "The greatest power in this world is power presented in this priesthood. That is the power that brought this earth into existence." (Benson, *Teachings*)
 - b. "Our Heavenly Father has great power. This power is called the priesthood. By his priesthood power, the heavens and the earth were created. By this power, the universe is kept in perfect order. Our Heavenly Father shares his priesthood power with his children on the earth... . We must have priesthood authority to act in the name of God" (*Gospel Teachings*)

- c. Joseph Smith defined priesthood as "an everlasting principle, [which has] existed with God from eternity, and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years,...holding the keys of power and blessings. In fact, [the Melchizedek] Priesthood is a perfect law of theocracy" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 157, 322)
2. The word "priesthood" has several meanings for Latter-day Saints:
 - a. Priesthood is power
 - b. Priesthood is authority
 - c. Priesthood is the right and responsibility to preside within the organizational structure of the Church
3. The priesthood is absolutely vital to the Mormon religion
 - a. Without the priesthood it is allegedly impossible for one to have either God's enablement or approval.
 - b. Without the priesthood, one is without spiritual authority and power—and essentially without God.
 - (1) "This people [Mormons] have the true knowledge; they [Christians] have it not. We have the Priesthood; they have it not. We have the way of life and salvation; they have it not. We know how to be Saints—how to save ourselves and all who will harken to our counsel; they do not." (*Journal of Discourses*)
4. The Aaronic Priesthood
 - a. Made up of four offices: deacon, teacher, priest, and bishop.
5. The Melchizedek Priesthood
 - a. Offices include elder, high priest, patriarch, seventy, and apostle. The general title "elder" is applied to all bearers of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
6. What Mormons claim
 - a. Aaronic priesthood was directly restored to Joseph Smith through the spirit of the dead John the Baptist (*Doctrines & Covenants*)
 - b. Melchizedek priesthood was restored to Smith through the spirits of the dead apostles Peter, James and John (*Doctrines & Covenants*)
 - c. The priesthood is the channel for obtaining revelation, the channel through which God reveals himself and his glory, his intents and his purposes, to mankind.
7. General responsibility and authority
 - a. Each priesthood office includes a specific set of rights and duties, in addition to responsibilities shared by all bearers of the priesthood.
 - b. All priesthood offices derive their authority from the priesthood itself, which is greater than any of those offices.
 - c. The Mormon priesthood is essentially papal in nature

- (1) "God reveals His will to His authorized priesthood representative on the earth, the prophet. The prophet, who is president of the Church, serves as the spokesman for God to all the members of the Church and all people on the earth." (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*)
- d. Hierarchy of priesthood authority is associated more with presiding priesthood quorums and presidencies and less with the offices of the Melchizedek Priesthood themselves.
 - e. Priesthood power may be exercised only under the direction of the one holding the right, or keys, to authorize its use.
8. Priesthood - The Bible's View
- a. How is Christ described? Hebrews 3:1 _____
 - b. Jesus is called a priest of what order? Hebrews 6:20 _____
 - c. On what basis was Christ made a priest of this order? Hebrews 7:15-16 _____
 - d. Where is our High Priest? Hebrews 8:1 _____
 - e. Is the priesthood of Christ changeable or transferable? Hebrews 7:24 (NASB) _

 - f. Is there a need for a human priesthood to mediate between man and God? Heb. 10:19-24 _____
 - g. How are Christians described? 1 Peter 2:9 (NASB) _____
 - h. What is required to be a priest according to the "order of Aaron"? Exodus 28:1 _

 - i. By what law was the Levitical priesthood established? What force does that law have now? Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:13 _____

 - j. IF the Levitical priesthood was still required, what would that say about Christ's mission? Heb. 9:15; Heb. 10:11-18 _____

Mormonism - Testing the Prophets

I. The Mormon "Prophets"

A. The claims of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1. Regarding Joseph Smith
 - a. "Every intelligent person under the heavens that does not, when informed, acknowledge that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of God, is in darkness, and is opposed to us and to Jesus and his kingdom on the earth." (*Journal of Discourses*, 8:223)
 - b. "Every spirit that confesses that Joseph Smith is a Prophet, that he lived and died a Prophet and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God, and every spirit that does not is of anti-Christ." (*Joseph Smith, History*, 7:287, by Brigham Young)
 - c. "If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth when he said that he stood in the presence of angels sent from the Lord, and obtained keys of authority, and the commandment to organize the Church of Jesus Christ once again on the earth, then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (Mormon Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol 1, p189-190)
2. Regarding Brigham Young
 - a. "In my doctrinal teachings I have taught many things not written in any book... I have never looked into the Bible, the *Book of Mormon*, or the *Doctrine and Covenants*, or any of our Church works to see whether they agreed with them or not. When I have spoken by the power of God and the Holy Ghost, it is the truth, it is scripture, and I have no fears but that it will agree with all that has been revealed in every particular. (*Deseret Weekly News*, 26:274)
3. Regarding all "living prophets" (following from *Utah Christian Tract Society Newsletter*, 1980, quoting Ezra Taft Benson, 13th President)
 - a. "...the living prophet is more important to the Mormon system than any dead prophet."
 - b. "...those who would pit the dead prophets against the living prophets, for the living prophets always take precedence."
 - c. Ezra Taft Benson stated the words of the prophet are more "vital than the Standard works for those books do not convey the word of God direct to us now, as do the words of a prophet or a man bearing the holy priesthood in our day and generation."
 - d. "...nothing a Mormon President says can be incorrect."

4. Regarding individual revelation
 - a. The Mormon church teaches the necessity of personal revelation from God, i.e. one must also accept direct supernatural guidance from God on a daily basis.
 - (1) It is the duty of Mormons to "gain personal revelation and guidance" for their personal affairs. (*Mormon Doctrine*, 645)
 - (2) "The Spirit is giving direct and daily revelation to the presiding Brethren in the administration of the affairs of the Church" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 102:2,9,23; 107:39; 128:11).

B. Test of a true prophet (Review)

1. What did Jesus promise His apostles? John 14:26 ; John 16:13 _____
2. When did gifts of the Holy Spirit, including revelation, cease? Acts 8:14-19 _____
3. What was Jesus' warning in Matt. 7:15ff? _____
4. What are men to do when confronted with 'prophetic utterances'? 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 _____

5. What is the test of a true prophet? Deut. 18:21-22

 - a. Even Mormon leadership agree on this point - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints President Ezra Taft Benson, the 13th 'Prophet', stated: "The ultimate test of a true prophet is when he speaks in the name of the Lord, his words come to pass" (*Deseret News*, October 6, 1981, p. 6a)
6. Does God lie? Titus 1:2 _____

II. Mormon Prophets and Their 'Prophecies'

Note: *Doctrines & Covenants* 1:37 says, "Search these commandments for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled." This is part of the preface to all the revelations given by Joseph Smith in the first edition. Therefore, all of the examples from the *Doctrines & Covenants* should have been fulfilled!

A. Joseph Smith

1. In a revelation given in September, 1832, in Kirtland, Ohio, according to the heading the New Jerusalem and its temple are to be built by the Mormons then living in western Missouri: "for verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord." *Doctrines & Covenants*, 84:1-5
 - a. Yet, neither the temple nor the city have yet been built, but the generation alive in 1832 has died!

2. *Doctrines & Covenants* 97:19, another revelation in Kirtland, Ohio on August 2, 1833 and it is about Zion, Jackson County, Missouri according to the heading. It claims "Surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place."
 - a. But, two weeks prior to this prophecy, on July 20, 1833, "Zion" began moving from Jackson County! The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints newspaper presses were destroyed by a mob, and leading Mormon officials were tarred and feathered and run out of town (*History of the Church*, Vol. 1, pp. 390-400).
 - b. Since Smith was in Kirtland, Ohio, he was unaware of what was happening in Missouri when he said God gave him this "revelation."
 - c. God would have known what was happening in Missouri! Therefore, the Mormon god is either not omniscient or Joseph Smith didn't get this message from God.
3. *Doctrines & Covenants* 112 claims to be a "Revelation given through Joseph Smith to Thomas B. Marsh at Kirtland, Ohio, July 23, 1837." Verse 1 begins, "Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Thomas..." while verse 6 says, "I the Lord have a great work for thee to do..." Verse 7 states, "thou art chosen..." and verse 11 says, "**I know thy heart...**" Verse 16 declares, "Thomas, thou art the man I have chosen to hold the Keys of my Kingdom, as pertaining to the twelve..."
 - a. Marsh was President of the Twelve at the time of the revelation, but he was an apostate only 15 months later on October 24, 1838! (*History of the Church*, Vol III, pp. 166-167).
 - b. The "Lord" who gave this revelation to Joseph Smith either did not know Marsh's heart as He claimed, or Marsh could do the work of the Lord as an apostate from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints!
 - c. The only other alternative is that Smith did not get this message from the Lord, which means that he was a false prophet!
4. *Doctrines & Covenants* 114, was given on April 17, 1838 according to the heading. It says of LDS apostle David W. Patten, "Verily, thus saith the Lord: it is wisdom in my servant, David W. Patten...that he may perform a mission unto me next spring..."
 - a. But, David Patten was shot and killed on October 25, 1838, during the Mormon conflict in Missouri, so he was not even alive the next spring! *History of the Church*, Vol III, pp. 170-171 give the details surrounding his death.
 - b. Would an omniscient Lord make that kind of mistake?
5. *Doctrines & Covenants* 124:56-60 claims the "Nauvoo House" was to be built and that Joseph Smith and his descendants were to "have place in that house, from generation to generation, forever and ever!"
 - a. But, Smith was killed, and the Nauvoo House was never even completed, so the Smith family never occupied it. The unfinished building still stands by the Mississippi River and is owned by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

- b. Thus, this prophecy has never been fulfilled.
6. "And now I am prepared to say by the Authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the North Country. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri... therefore, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come'. Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things which I have spoken, fulfilled" (*History of the Church*, Vol. I, pp. 315-316).
 - a. This prophecy was dated January 4, 1833. All those living in 1833 are dead, but none of Smith's prophecy has been fulfilled except that there was bloodshed in the United States... which was predicted by the secular press before Smith's prophecy.
 - b. Pestilence, hail, famine and earthquakes did not sweep the wicked who lived in 1833 off of the face of the land, nor did the "lost tribes of Israel" return from the North country. And, the gathering that began in Missouri was aborted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
 7. "I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1963, p. 302).
 - a. Smith and his generation are all dead. Yet, no redress was given, and the U.S. government was not overthrown, so Smith's prophecy was false.
 8. Another "threat" prophecy was given in *Doctrines & Covenants* 84.114-119 (1832) "...let the bishop go unto the city of New York, also to the city of Albany, and also to the city of Boston and warn the people of those cities with the sound of the gospel...of the desolation and utter abolishment [sic] which await them if they do reject these things. For if they do reject these things the hour of their judgment is nigh, and their house shall be left unto them desolate...(v.119) For I the Lord have put forth my hand to exert the powers of heaven; ye cannot see it now, yet a little while and ye shall see it and know that I am, and that I will come and reign with my people."
 - a. None of these cities ever listened to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints gospel to any measurable extent during Smith's lifetime. In fact, they rejected it; and even now, the Mormon church represents a very tiny minority in these urban centers. Yet these cities never suffered "desolation and utter abolishment" for their failure to heed the Mormon gospel.
 - b. The prophecy failed.

9. Oliver B. Huntington, a devout LDS contemporary of Joseph Smith, said that Smith taught, "The inhabitants of the moon are more of a uniform size than the inhabitants of the earth, being six feet in height. They dress very much like the Quaker style and are quite general in style or fashion of dress. They live to be very old; coming generally; near a thousand years. This is the description of them as given by Joseph (Smith) the Seer, and he could see whatever he asked the Father in the name of Jesus to see" (*Journal of Oliver B. Huntington*, Vol. II, p. 166).

B. Brigham Young

1. "Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening, called the Moon?... When you inquire about the inhabitants of that sphere you find that the most learned are as ignorant in regard to them as the most ignorant of their fellows. So it is with regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question about it; it was not made in vain" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. XIII, p. 271).
 - a. Young also said, "I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture" (*Ibid.*, p. 95).
 - b. This "scripture" about men on the moon as well as the sun by Brigham Young ought to raise eyebrows about Brigham Young's inspired messages.
2. Young also argued in favor of building the Salt Lake temple out of mud or adobes because it would last longer than marble or lime stone. He also declared that the Egyptian Pyramids were made out of "adobes, clay mixed with straw" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, p. 219).
3. "Again, they will try to tell how the divinity of Jesus is joined to his humanity, and exhaust all their mental faculties, and wind up with this profound language, as describing the soul of man, "it is an immaterial substance!" What a learned idea! Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven. Now, let all who may hear these doctrines, pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damnation." (Brigham Young sermon, recorded in the *Journal of Discourses*, 1:50-51, April 9, 1852)
4. "Mankind are here because they are the offspring of parents who were first brought here from another planet, and power was given them to propagate their species, and they were commanded to multiply and replenish the earth. The offspring of Adam and Eve are commanded to take the rude elements, and, by the knowledge God has given, to convert them into everything required for their life, health, adornment, wealth, comfort, and consolation. Have we the knowledge to do this? We have. Who gave us this knowledge? Our Father who made us; for he is the only wise God, and to [p.286] him we owe allegiance; to him we owe our lives. He has brought us forth and taught us all we know. We are not indebted to any other power or God for all our great blessings." (*Journal of Discourses* 7:285-286, October. 9, 1859)
5. "I have given you a few leading items upon this subject, but a great deal more

remains to be told. Now, remember from this time forth, and for ever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost." (Brigham Young sermon, recorded in the *Journal of Discourses*, 1:50-51, April 9, 1852)

C. 'Prophecies' of Others

1. John Taylor, third Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Prophet, said, "Referring to the United Order, the Lord has given us to understand that whoever refuses to comply with the requirements of that law, his name shall not be known in the records of the Church but shall be blotted out; neither shall his children have an inheritance in Zion. Are these the words of the Lord to us?... It is the word of God to me; it is the word of God to you" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 21, p. 58).
 - a. If the United Order was the word of the Lord and LDS who did not comply with it were to be blotted out of the LDS Church records, then there would be no LDS Church today because they all failed to live the United Order.
 - b. In fact, the United Order was tried several times, but it always failed.
2. Wilford Woodruff, fourth Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Prophet said on June 27, 1875, "I believe there are many children now living in the mountains of Israel (Utah) who will never taste death, that is, they will dwell on the earth at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 18, p. 37).
 - a. On June 6, 1880, Woodruff again said, "We live in the generation itself when Jesus Christ will come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 21, p. 124).
 - b. Woodruff died on September 2, 1898, and all the children he spoke of in 1875 are now dead. Therefore, Woodruff's predictions are false!
3. Lorenzo Snow, fifth Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Prophet, said in the April 1898, LDS Conference, "There are many - hundreds and hundreds within the sound of my voice - that will live to go back to Jackson County (Missouri) and build a holy temple to the Lord our God" (Conference Reports, pp. 14, 64).
 - a. He also said, "Many of you will be living in Jackson County and there you will be assisting in building the temple; - I am saying things to you now of which I know something of the truth of them" (*Deseret News*, June 15, 1901).
 - b. Snow understood *Doctrines & Covenants* 84 to mean that some of the people from Smith's generation would be alive and go back to Jackson County, Missouri.
 - c. But, all of that generation are dead, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints still have not moved to Jackson County nor built a temple there!

D. Proof that Joseph Smith was a Prophet?

1. In *Doctrines & Covenants* 3.4 (given in 1828), Smith said: "For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet **if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him..**" (emphasis mine)

- a. In May, 1844, Smith proclaimed: "I have more to boast of than any man ever had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a church together since the days of Adam....Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet."
- b. Just 30 days from making that boast, on June 27, 1844 Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob in Carthage jail!

III. Conclusion Demanded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Joseph Fielding Smith, the tenth president of the church, maintained that (emphasis mine)

"Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith.

He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground."

"If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who wilfully attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his **doctrines shown to be false**,... I maintain that Joseph Smith was all that he claimed to be" (Doctrines of Salvation, 1959, vol.1, pp.188-89).

Mormonism - Significant Doctrines

I. Introduction

A. Original Thirteen Articles of Faith²⁶

The Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were written by Joseph Smith, Nauvoo, Illinois, 1842 in answer to an inquiry from John Wentworth, editor of the Chicago Democrat newspaper, about the beliefs of the Mormons. The articles give a concise overview of some of the basic beliefs of the Mormons in the 1840's.

These continue to be foundational beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, however, over the years there are many more doctrines that have been developed, including some which were later discarded.

Which of these 'sound' like your beliefs? _____

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
8. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

²⁶ *History of the Church*, Vol. 4, pp. 535—541

10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
11. We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.
13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

B. Expanding on Doctrine

1. The true gospel was lost from the earth. Mormonism is its restoration, *Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 182-185
2. We need prophets today, the same as in the Old Testament, *Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 444-445
3. The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, *History of the Church*, 4:461.
4. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation [the context is the full gospel including exaltation to Godhood] outside the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670.
5. There are many gods, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163.
6. There is a mother god, *Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 443.
7. God used to be a man on another planet, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 321. Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, Vol 5, pp. 613-614; Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol 2, p. 345, Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p. 333.
8. After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pages 345-347, 354.
9. God the Father had a Father, Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, p. 476; Heber C. Kimball, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p. 19; Milton Hunter, *First Council of the Seventy, Gospel through the Ages*, p. 104-105.
10. God resides near a star called Kolob, *Pearl of Great Price*, pages 34-35; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 428.
11. God the Father has a body of flesh and bones, *Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22.

12. God is in the form of a man, Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6, p. 3.
13. God is married to his goddess wife and has spirit children, *Mormon Doctrine* p. 516.
14. We were first begotten as spirit children in heaven and then born naturally on earth, *Journal of Discourse*, Vol. 4, p. 218.
15. The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, *Mormon Doctrine*, page 129.
16. The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus "in the morning of pre-existence," *Mormon Doctrine*, page 192.
17. Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163.
18. A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the father and Satan offered a plan to the father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god." *Mormon Doctrine*, page 193; *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 6, page 8.
19. God had sexual relations with Mary to make the body of Jesus, Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 4, p. 218, 1857; vol. 8, p. 115. - This one is disputed among many Mormons and not always 'officially' taught and believed. Nevertheless, Young, the 2nd prophet of the Mormon church taught it.
20. Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.
21. Good works are necessary for salvation, *Articles of Faith*, p. 92.
22. There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 1, p. 188.
23. Baptism for the dead, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. II, p. 141. This is a practice of baptizing each other in place of non-Mormons who are now dead. Their belief is that in the afterlife, the "newly baptized" person will be able to enter into a higher level of Mormon heaven.
24. There are three levels of heaven: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 348.
25. The Holy Ghost is a male personage, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, by Le Grand Richards, Salt Lake City, 1956, page 118; *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, page 179

Note:

In studying Mormon doctrine, little of it is Bible based and therefore begs the question to a Bible student - "where did they get that?" Their doctrines have been developed over the years, from Joseph Smith and subsequent Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 'prophets' and 'continuing revelation.'

To effectively study with a Mormon one must first and foremost deal with the Book of Mormon and the 'Prophet' Joseph Smith, both of which provide the foundation upon which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is built. These two will be covered in later lessons.

The purpose of lessons on the doctrines is to give us a basic understanding of some of their teachings and how that compares to the Word of God.

II. The Godhead

Belief Summary: The Mormon doctrine is one of polytheism. The Godhead is not limited to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In fact, by Mormon teaching there are multitude of 'gods', many of which were once human but have progressed to 'godhood', immortal fleshly beings.

Mormonism teaches that God used to be a man on another world and that he became a god by following the laws and ordinances of his god on his home world. He brought his wife to this world, a woman he had married on the other world. She is, essentially a goddess.

In his present god-state, he rules our world. He has a body of flesh and bones. Since god and his wife are both exalted persons, they each possess physical bodies. In their exalted states as deities, they produce spirit children that grow and mature in the spiritual realm. The first spirit born was Jesus. Afterwards Lucifer was born along with the rest of us.

So, Mormonism teaches that we all pre-existed in the spirit realm having been produced from the union of god and his goddess wife. Therefore, we all existed in spirit form before coming down and entering the bodies of human babies that are being born on earth.

Some quotes to demonstrate the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' concept of the Godhead:

"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, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without

number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods" (Brigham Young: *Journal of Discourses*, Vol.6 pg.50)

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also, but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us" (*Doctrines & Covenants* 130:22).

"We believe in a God who is Himself progressive, whose majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in eternal advancement - a Being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the church proclaims the eternal truth: '**As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be**'" (*Articles of Faith*, James Talmage, 1976, p. 430). (emphasis mine)

Review your definitions from the Jehovah's Witnesses lesson on Godhood (e.g. Godhead, manhood, etc.)

A. Polytheism

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:

a. There are many gods

- (1) "In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 349).
- (2) "Each of these Gods, including Jesus Christ and His Father, being in possession of not merely an organized spirit, but a glorious immortal body of flesh and bones. . ." (Parley. P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, ed. 1965, p.44).
- (3) "Gods exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 238).
- (4) "How many gods there are I do not know, but there never was a time when there were not gods." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 7:333)

b. The 'home world' of God is a planet near Kolob (which governs other planets in our universe, provides the sun and moon with their light, etc.)

- (1) God the Father is now on a planet near the star Kolob with his wives having spiritual children. (*Pearl of Great Price*, Abraham 3:9,16)
- (2) "And the Lord said unto me: These are the governing ones; and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me, for I am the Lord thy God... that Kolob was after the manner of the Lord, according to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof; that one revolution was a day unto the Lord, after his manner of reckoning, it being one thousand years according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest. This is the reckoning of the Lord's time, according to the reckoning of Kolob. (*Pearl of Great Price*: Abraham 3:3-4)

2. The Bible teaches?

a. What did God proclaim to Israel? Deut. 4:35 _____

- b. What does God claim about other gods? Isaiah 43:10 _____
- c. What claim does God claim about Himself? Isaiah 44:6 _____
- d. 'Where' is Jesus now? Mark 16:19 (NASB) _____
- e. 'Where' are Jesus and God now? Heb 9:24 (NASB) _____
- f. Who did Daniel depend upon? Dan 2:28 _____
- g. 'Where' is God according to David? Psalms 139:7-11 _____

B. God the Father

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. Obtained His life by procreation and His position by obedience to His god
 - (1) "I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see. He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ Himself did" (*History of the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 305)
 - (2) "We were begotten by our Father in Heaven; the person of our Father in Heaven was begotten on a previous heavenly world by His Father; and again He was begotten by a still more ancient Father, and so on, from generation to generation, from one heavenly world to another still more ancient, until our minds are wearied and lost in the multiplicity of generations and successive worlds" (Orson Pratt in *The Seer*, p. 132).
 - (3) "The Gods who dwell in the Heaven from which our spirits came, are beings who have been redeemed from the grave in a world which existed before the foundations of this earth were laid. They and the heavenly body which they now inhabit were once in a fallen state. They were exalted also, from fallen men to Celestial Gods to inhabit their Heaven forever and ever" (Orson Pratt in *The Seer*, p. 23).
 - (4) "Our Eternal Father has attained His position of exaltation and Godhood by obedience to the great law of progression" (*Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p.12).
 - b. Has many wives
 - (1) "...God honors polygamy since he himself is a polygamist, along with his son, Jesus, and his people, the Mormons: We have now clearly shown that God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity, by whom he begat our spirits as well as the spirit of Jesus his First Born, and another being upon the earth by whom he begat the tabernacle of Jesus, as his Only Begotten in this world." (Orson Pratt, *The Seer*)
 - (2) "If none but gods will be permitted to multiply immortal children, it follows that each God must have one or more wives. God, the Father of our spirits, became the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh." (Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, page 158)
 - c. Mankind, as well as Jesus, has a "Mother God"

- (1) "We are expressly told that God is the Father of spirits, and to apprehend the literalness of this solemn truth we must know that a Mother of spirits is an existent personality" (*Articles of Faith*, p. 443).
 - (2) "This doctrine that there is a Mother in Heaven was affirmed in plainness by the First Presidency of the Church (Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, and Anthon H. Lund) when in speaking of pre-existence and the origin of man, they said that 'man as a spirit was begotten and born of heavenly parents and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father'" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 516)
- d. Possesses a body
 - (1) "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's." (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22)
 - (2) "God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified, exalted immortal resurrected man!" (Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 322-23, 517, 643)
- e. Begat Jesus (and Satan) as His spiritual children through sexual procreation
 - (1) Called "the First Spirit Child born to God the Father in Pre-existence" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 281)
 - (2) "Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163).
 - (3) "The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind" (*Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, p. 15).
2. The Book of Mormon and Doctrines & Covenants teach differently? (Emphasis mine)
 - a. "And Ammon said: This is God. And Ammon said unto him again: Believest thou that this **Great Spirit**, who is God, **created all things** which are in **heaven** and in the **earth**?" (Alma 18:28)
 - b. And Aaron said unto him: Yea, he is that **Great Spirit**, and he **created all things** both in **heaven** and in **earth**. Believest thou this? (Alma 22:10)
 - c. For behold, God knowing all things, being from **everlasting to everlasting**...(Moroni 7:22)
 - d. For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is **unchangeable from all eternity** to all eternity. (Moroni 8:18)
 - e. By these things we know that there is a God in heaven, who is **infinite and eternal**, from **everlasting to everlasting** the same **unchangeable** God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them; And that he **created man, male and female**, after his own image and in his own likeness, created he them; (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 20:17-18)
3. The Bible teaches?

- a. How did God describe Himself to Moses? Exodus 3:14 _____
What does this say about God? _____
- b. How did Moses describe God? Deut. 33:27 _____
- c. How did Paul describe God's power and nature? Rom. 1:20 _____
- d. By whose commandment has the gospel been revealed? Rom. 16:26 _____

- e. How is God described by Paul? 1 Tim. 1:17 _____
- f. How is God described in John 4:24 _____
- g. According to the following Scriptures what can be concluded regarding God's nature? Num 23:19 ; Hosea 11:9 ; Psa 50:21 _____
- h. What attribute is described of God by David? Psa. 139:7-11 _____
- i. Describe the attributes of the "mother God" in the Bible? _____

C. Jesus

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. Provided a body through physical sexual relations with the virgin Mary (Note: Mormons maintain Jesus' birth was to a virgin)
 - (1) "Our Lord is the only mortal person ever born to a virgin, because he is the only person who ever had an immortal Father. Mary, his mother, "was carried away in the Spirit" (1 Ne. 11:13-21), was "overshadowed" by the Holy Ghost, and the conception which took place "by the power of the Holy Ghost" resulted in the bringing forth of the literal and personal Son of God the Father. (Alma 7:10; 2 Ne. 17:14; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38.) Christ is not the Son of the Holy Ghost, but of the Father. (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 1, pp. 18-20.) Modernistic teachings denying the virgin birth are utterly and completely apostate and false. (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.822)
 - (2) "The fleshly body of Jesus required a Mother as well as a Father. Therefore, the Father and Mother of Jesus, according to the flesh, must have been associated together in the capacity of Husband and Wife; hence the Virgin Mary must have been, for the time being, the lawful wife of God the Father: we use the term lawful Wife, because it would be blasphemous in the highest degree to say that He overshadowed her or begat the Savior unlawfully". (Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, page 158)
 - (3) "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost" (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pg.7).
 - b. The Mormon Jesus was polygamously married and begat children

- (1) "I discover that some of the Eastern papers represent me as a great blasphemer, because I said, in my lecture on Marriage, at our last Conference, that Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee, that Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and that he begat children. All that I have to say in reply to that charge is this - they worship a Saviour that is too pure and holy to fulfil the commands of his Father. I worship one that is just pure and holy enough 'to fulfil all righteousness;' not only the righteous law of baptism, but the still more righteous and important law 'to multiply and replenish the earth.' Startle not at this! for even the Father himself honoured that law by coming down to Mary, without a natural body, and begetting a son; and if Jesus begat children, he only 'did that which he had seen his Father do'(Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 2, p. 210)
- c. The Mormon Jesus' sacrifice was insufficient and/or ineffectual for the redemption of man from his sin (e.g. murder, a 2nd adultery, breaking a covenant).
 - (1) "But man may commit certain grievous sins - according to his light and knowledge - that will place him beyond the reach of the atoning blood of Christ. If then he would be saved he must make sacrifice of his own life to atone - so far as in his power lies - for that sin, for the blood of Christ alone under certain circumstances will not avail. Do you believe this doctrine? If not, then I do say you do not believe in the true doctrine of the atonement of Christ!"(Smith, Joseph F., *Doctrines of Salvation: Sermons and Writings of Joseph Feilding Smith*)
 - (2) "It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, yet men can commit sins which it can never remit.... There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering upon an altar, as in ancient days; and there are sins that the blood of a lamb, or a calf, or of turtle dove, cannot remit, but they must be atoned for by the blood of the man." (Sermon by Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 4, pages 53-54)
2. The Book of Mormon teaches differently:
 - a. "O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified; for we believe in **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth and all things; who shall come down among the children of men...And this is **the means whereby salvation cometh**. And there is **none other salvation** save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved except the conditions which I have told you" (Mosiah 4:2, 7) (Emphasis mine)
3. The Bible teaches?
 - a. Who is Christ? John 1:1-2 _____
 - b. What did Jesus claim in John 8:58? _____
 - c. What did God promise? Isaiah 7:14 _____
 - d. How did Mary become a woman with child? Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35 _____
 - e. What was the condition of Mary at Jesus' birth? Matt. 1:23-25 _____

- f. In whom is salvation? Acts 4:12 _____
- g. How do men obtain redemption from their sins? Eph 1:7 _____
- h. What sins are able to be cleansed by the blood of Christ? 1 John 1:7 _____
- i. Are men saved by corruptible (man's own blood) or incorruptible means? 1 Pet. 1:18-19 _____
- j. What kind of people had the Christians of Corinth once been? 1 Cor. 6:9-11 _____

D. Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. The Holy Spirit is distinguishable from the Holy Ghost
 - (1) "To gain a sound gospel understanding, the truth seeker must determine in each scriptural passage what is meant by such titles as *Spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of God, Spirit of truth*" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 752).
 - (2) "The Holy Spirit is not a person but rather an impersonal force. The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son." (McConkie, Bruce. *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 752-753)
 - b. The Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead, is male and is a spiritual 'man'
 - (1) "The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. He is a Personage of Spirit, a Spirit Person, a Spirit Man, a Spirit Entity. He can be in only one place at one time, and he does not and cannot transform himself into any other form or image than that of the Man whom he is" (McConkie, Bruce. *Mormon Doctrine*, (p. 359)
 - (2) "He [the Holy Ghost] has a body of spirit. His body of spirit is in the form and likeness of a man. He can be only in one place at a time..." (*Gospel Principles* p. 34, 1988 edition).
 - (3) "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son." (McConkie, Bruce. *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 752)
 - c. The Holy Spirit is an 'impersonal force'
 - (1) "The Holy Spirit is not a person but rather an impersonal force...You may call it the Spirit of God, you may call it the influence of God's intelligence, you may call it the substance of his power; no matter what it is called, it is the spirit of intelligence that permeates the universe and gives to the spirits of men understanding, (McConkie, Bruce. *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 752-753)
 - (2) "'The Spirit of God which emanates from Deity may be likened to electricity,... which fills the earth and the air, and is everywhere present'" (*Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 752-53).
2. Contrary Mormon teachings from the past (emphasis mine):
 - a. **"There are two personages** ... the Father and the Son: The Father being a personage of spirit, glory and power: possessing all perfection and fulness:

The Son, who was in the bosom of the Father a personage of tabernacle, ... called the Son because of the flesh ... possessing the same mind with the Father, which mind is the Holy Spirit, ..." (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 1835; note: removed from modern editions)

- b. Quoting Joseph F. Smith, "The Holy Ghost is a **personage** of Spirit, he **constitutes the third person** in the Godhead" (*The Restored Church*, 1956, p.541)
 - c. "...the Holy Ghost is a male personage.... He is a male personage of spirit ..." (Apostle LeGrand Richards in *A Marvelous Work And A Wonder*, p.118).
 - d. "...the **Holy Ghost is a man**; he is **one of the sons of our Father** and our God ..." (Heber C. Kimball in *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p.179).
 - e. "The **Holy Ghost is a person**. Unlike the Father and the Son who have bodies of flesh and bone, the Holy Ghost has **no body of flesh and bone** (that is, of the elements as we know them) but is a personage of spirit" (*The Restored Church*, p.540).
 - f. "...crowning Gospel ordinance **requisite for Godhood is celestial marriage** ... obedience to this law is absolutely necessary in order to obtain the highest exaltation in the Kingdom of God" (Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel Through the Ages*, pp.118-19).
3. The Bible teaches?
- a. Using Bible translations, Strong's, or any other reference books, determine the difference in the Bible between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost. _____
 - b. To whom did Ananias and Sapphira lie? Acts 5 "lie to the Holy Spirit" v 3; "lied...to God" v 4 _____
 - c. How is God described in John 4:24? _____

E. The Adam-God Doctrine

Note: The Adam-God doctrine was a natural outgrowth of the doctrine of a plurality of Gods. Although this doctrine was not publicly taught until 1852, Adam was held in high esteem at the very beginning of the Mormon church.

The doctrine holds that Adam came into the garden with a 'celestial' body along with Eve. He helped make and organize this world. Further, this same Adam is God the Father.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints leaders no longer teach the Adam-God doctrine, even though some members of the church still believe it. Anyone who is caught teaching this doctrine is liable to be excommunicated.

The Mormon church demonstrates its inconsistency since they say that Brigham Young was a prophet, and at the same time they will excommunicate a person for believing in his teachings.

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. God came to earth as Adam, an immortal being

- (1) "Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body..." (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51, Brigham Young, April 9, 1852).
 - (2) "After the earth was prepared Father Adam came and stayed here..." (*Journal of Discourses*, 16:167)
 - (3) "You believe Adam was made of the dust of this earth. This I do not believe, though it is supposed that it is so written in the Bible; but it is not, to my understanding." (President Brigham Young, October 23, 1853, *Journal of Discourses* 2:6)
 - (4) "Adam was made from the dust of an earth, but not from the dust of this earth. He was made as you and I are made, and no person was ever made upon any other principle." (President Brigham Young, April 20, 1856, *Journal of Discourses* 3:319).
- b. God brought His wife, Eve
- (1) "There was a certain woman brought to Father Adam whose name was Eve, because she was the first woman, and she was given to him to be his wife." (*Journal of Discourses*, 16:167)
 - (2) He [Adam] brought Eve, one of his wives, with him." (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51, Brigham Young, April 9, 1852).
- c. 'Father Adam' was a manager and organizer of the earth, not the Creator of the universe
- (1) "When Father Adam came to assist in organizing the earth out of the crude material that was found, an earth was made upon which the children of men could live. (*Journal of Discourses*, 16:167)
 - (2) "Adam came into the garden of Eden...He helped to make and organize this world." (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51, Brigham Young, April 9, 1852).
 - (3) "Though we have it in history that our father Adam was made of the dust of this earth, and that he knew nothing about his God previous to being made here, yet it is not so; and when we learn the truth we shall see and understand that he helped to make this world, and was the chief manager in that operation....He was the person who brought the animals and the seeds from other planets to this world..." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol.5, p.331 – p.332, Brigham Young, October 7, 1857)
- d. Adam is Michael, the Archangel
- (1) He [Adam] is MICHAEL, the Archangel, the ANCIENT OF DAYS! about whom holy men have written and spoken..." (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51, Brigham Young, April 9, 1852).
- e. Adam is God the Father
- (1) "...HE [Adam] is our FATHER and our GOD, and the only God with whom WE have to do. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later... Now, let all who may hear these doctrines, pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or

damnation. (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51, Brigham Young, April 9, 1852).

- (2) "...in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which God revealed to me - namely that Adam is our father and God ..Then he said, 'I want my children who are in the spirit world to come and live here. I once dwelt upon an earth something like this, in a mortal state. I was faithful. I received my crown and exaltation...I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come here and take tabernacles of flesh that their spirits may have a house, a tabernacle...' (Brigham Young, *Deseret Weekly News*, June 18, 1873, page 308; *Deseret Evening News*, June 14, 1873)
- f. Adam is the literal, fleshly father of Jesus
 - (1) "When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the 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, and who is our Father in Heaven. (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, pp.50-51).
- g. Adam's (Mormons' god) fall was a good fall; but then 'sin is not always sin'
 - (1) "Who was the Savior begotten by?...Who did beget him? His Father, and his father is our God, and the Father of our spirits, and he is the framer of the body, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who is he? He is Father Adam; Michael; the Ancient of Days. (President Brigham Young, Feb. 19, 1854, *Brigham Young Collection*)
 - (2) "If Adam had not sinned, and if his posterity had continued upon the earth, they could not have known sin, or the bitter from the sweet, neither would they have known righteousness, for the plain and simple reason that every effect can only be fully manifested by its opposite." (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.345 – p.346)
 - (3) "Some may regret that our first parents sinned. This is nonsense. If we had been there, and they had not sinned, we should have sinned. I will not blame Adam or Eve. Why? Because it was necessary that sin should enter into the world; no man could ever understand the principle of exaltation without its opposite; no one could ever receive an exaltation without being acquainted with its opposite." (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.102)
 - (4) "Under Christ Adam yet stands at our head.... Adam fell, but he fell in the right direction. He fell toward the goal...." (Sterling W. Sill, a member of the First Quorum of Seventy)
 - (5) "Adam fell, but he fell upward. Jesus says to us, "Come up higher"" (*Deseret News*, Church Section, July 31, 1965, p.7).
 - (6) "...also said that "the fall of man came as a blessing in disguise, ... I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin.... it is not always a sin to transgress a law" (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pp.114-15).

2. The conflict of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and their 'prophets':
 - a. The confidence of the Mormons and Brigham Young as a prophet **then**:
 - (1) "The President of the Church, as prophet, will never be allowed by the Lord to lead members of the Church into apostasy or error" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, Official Declaration—1).
 - (2) "I say now, when they [his discourses] are copied and approved by me they are as good Scripture as is couched in this Bible . . . " (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 13, p. 264; see also page 95.)
 - (3) "I am here to answer. I shall be on hand to answer when I am called upon, for all the counsel and for all the instruction that I have given to this people. If there is an Elder here, or any member of this Church, called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who can bring up the first idea, the first sentence that I have delivered to the people as counsel that is wrong, I really wish they would do it; but they cannot do it, for the simple reason that I have never given counsel that is wrong; this is the reason." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 16, page 161.)
 - b. The discounted doctrine **now**:
 - (1) John A. Widtsoe, who recently served as an Apostle, denied that Brigham Young taught Adam was the Father of Christ. He claimed that only "Enemies of the Church or stupid people" could reach such a conclusion.²⁷
 - (a) "Another meeting this evening. President B. Young taught that Adam was the father of Jesus and the only God to us. That he came to this world in a resurected [sic] body..." (*On the Mormon Frontier, The Diary of Hosea Stout*, University of Utah Press, 1964, vol. 2, p.435).
 - (2) When the Mormon church was accused of teaching that "Adam is God ... and that Jesus is his son," the Mormon historian B. H. Roberts replied: "As a matter of fact, the 'Mormon' Church does not teach that doctrine. A few men in the 'Mormon' Church have held such views: and several of them quite prominent in the councils of the Church, ... Brigham Young and others may have taught that doctrine ..." (*Deseret News*, July 23, 1921).
 - (3) Wilford Woodruff, the fourth president of the church, once stated: "Cease troubling yourselves about who God is; who Adam is, who Christ is, who Jehovah is. For heaven's sake, let these things alone ... God is God. Christ is Christ. The Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost. That should be enough for you and me to know ... I say this because we are troubled every little while with inquiries from Elders anxious to know who God is, who Christ is, and who Adam is. I say to the Elders of Israel, stop this!" (*Millennial Star*, vol. 57, pp.355-56).

²⁷ Jerald & Sandra Tanner, *The Changing World of Mormonism*

(4) In a letter dated May 11, 1966, Apostle LeGrand Richards wrote: "Your third question: 'Is the Adam God Doctrine, as taught in the *Journal of Discourses*, true?' Answer: No."²⁸

3. The Bible teaches?

- a. To hold a position that Adam was God requires what conclusion? _____
- b. From where did the universe, including earth, come and when? Gen. 1; Rev 4:11 _____
- c. How did the universe come about? Gen. 1:3, 6, 9. 14. 20, 24; 2 Pet 3:5 _____
- d. Who was Adam & Eve and how did they appear on the earth? Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; 1 Tim. 2:13 _____
- e. What is sin and who gave Adam & Eve the law they violated? 1 John 3:4; Gen. 2 _____
- f. Was it beneficial for them (or mankind) when they sinned? _____
- g. Does God take pleasure in sin and those who sin? Psa 5:5 _____

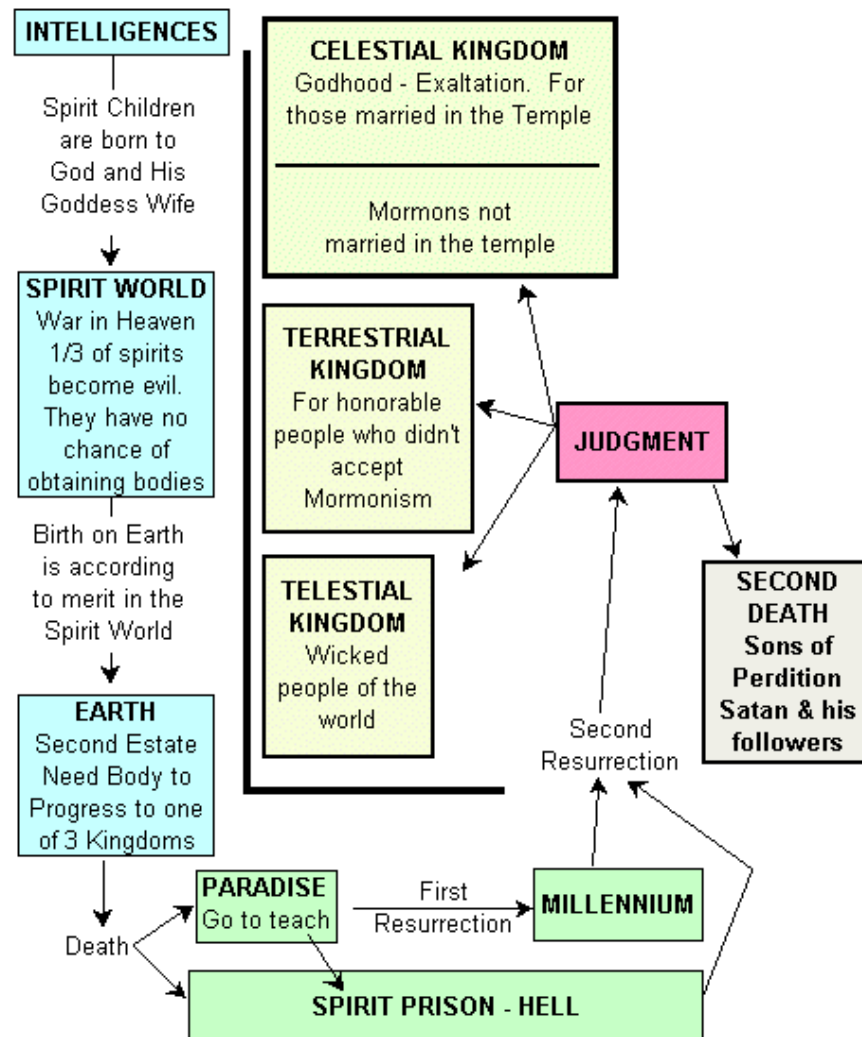
²⁸ Jerald & Sandra Tanner, *The Changing World of Mormonism*

Mormonism - Significant Doctrines

I. The Progression to 'God' Doctrine

Belief Summary: This doctrine is linked to the Mormon view of sin, salvation and judgment. It traces a full cycle wherein all beings are eternal, some of whom end up on earth in fleshly bodies, and depending upon their works here are judged and rewarded. The only means of becoming a 'god' is to be a Mormon and to have earned the right to proceed to a 'celestial heaven'.

A. Overview of Mormon Eternal Progression



<http://www.carm.org/lds/ldsprogression.htm>

B. Progression Up to Judgment

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. Milton R. Hunter summarized this doctrine. He stated that "we are as eternal as God Himself. But to achieve perfection and godhood, we must go through at least four stages of life:" (*Gospel Through the Ages* by Milton R. Hunter, 1958)
 - (1) Stage 1: conscious eternally existing beings called 'intelligences.'
 - (2) Stage 2: progressed from 'intelligences' to the pre-mortal spirit world where we were born as baby spirits to God and one of His wives by procreation.
 - (3) Stage 3: our present mortal probation
 - (4) Stage 4: spirits go to a spirit prison which has two compartments, some saved, others with opportunity to be saved
2. The Bible teaches:
 - a. Where do we first read of a man on the earth? _____
 - b. How did the first man come to be a living being? _____
 - c. How did the first woman come to be a living being? _____
 - d. How did the rest mankind come into being after that? Gen 3:16; Gen 3:20; Gen 6:1; Gen 9:1 _____
 - e. In what way are we children of God? Gen. 1; John 1:12; 1 John 3:10; Gal 3:26 _____

 - f. Where does the Bible discuss the existence pre-creation as an "intelligence" or a 'pre-mortal' spirit? _____

C. Judgment & the Three Heavens/Degrees of Glory

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 76):
 - a. The first heaven is the 'telestial glory,' where unbelievers and the worst kind of people go after the final judgment.
 - b. The second heaven is the 'terrestrial glory,' where good, religious people who are not Mormons go after judgment.
 - c. But, the third heaven is the 'celestial glory,' and is reserved for Mormons alone.
 - d. Doctrine claims Bible support in 1 Cor. 15:40-41 and 2 Cor. 12:2
2. The Bible teaches:
 - a. What is the context of 1 Cor. 15:35-54? _____
 - b. In what verse do you find "telestial glory?" _____
 - c. Are the 'glories' of 1 Cor. 15 speaking of heavens? Explain. _____
 - d. IF we were to allow 1 Cor. 15:40-41 to be speaking of degrees of glory, how many would this text support? _____

- e. What is the context of 2 Cor. 12:2 _____
 - f. Paul mentions a 3rd heaven - what is it and the other two 'heavens'? _____
-

D. Immortality and Eternal Life

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:
 - a. Differentiation between eternal life and immortality
 - (1) "Immortality means to live forever but... acquiring eternal life means to return to the presence of God in the celestial kingdom. And those who are particularly faithful receive 'eternal lives.' This means to become exalted just as our Heavenly Father is... then shall they be gods" (*The First 2,000 Years* by Cleon Skousen, p. 69).
 - (2) "Even those in the Celestial Kingdom, however, who do not go on to exaltation, will have immortality only and not eternal life... Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the Celestial Kingdom.... This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity and those who obtain it are gods" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670).
 - (3) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believes all will have immortality or resurrection, but only Mormons can have eternal life and enter the Celestial Kingdom (*Gospel Through the Ages*, Milton R. Hunter, 1958., p. 166).
 - (4) "...baptism is the gate to the Celestial Kingdom, Celestial Marriage is the gate to an exaltation in the highest heaven within the Celestial World" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 118).
 - (5) "A knowledge of two great truths is essential to an understanding of the doctrine of the atonement: 1. The fall of Adam; and 2. The divine Sonship of our Lord. Adam's fall brought spiritual and temporal death into the world. Spiritual death is to be cast out of the presence of the Lord and die as pertaining to the things of righteousness, or in other words things of the spirit. Temporal death or natural death is the separation of the body and spirit...the atonement of Christ is designed to ransom men from the effects of the fall of Adam in that both spiritual and temporal death are conquered...The body and spirit which separated, incident to what men call the natural death, are reunited in immortality... **Immortality comes as a free gift**, by the grace of God alone, **without works of righteousness. Eternal life is the reward for "obedience** to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel"" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 61-62; *emphasis mine*)
 - (6) Mormon scripture says polygamy is one of the requirements for "eternal lives" and godhood (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 132:1-24).
 - (7) They can only be saved in the full sense of the word by working for their salvation. A popular verse in the Book of Mormon states "...that we are saved by grace, after all we can do." (2 Nephi 25:23).

- (a) Works need to be performed to obtain highest level of salvation in the afterlife. Just some of these works include:²⁹
 - i) Being baptized by a Mormon with the correct 'authority'.
 - ii) Being a member of the Mormon Church.
 - iii) Being a regular tithe payer.
 - iv) Attending meetings regularly.
 - v) Keeping the 'Word of Wisdom'.
 - vi) Doing your genealogical work.
 - vii) Baptizing for the dead.
 - viii) Being 'worthy'.
 - ix) Doing missionary work.
 - x) Going through an 'Endowment Ceremony' in the Mormon temple.
 - xi) Wearing sacred underwear.
 - xii) Being married in the Mormon temple.

2. The Bible teaches:

- a. What did Jesus Christ accomplish by coming to earth and sacrificing His life? 2 Tim 1:10 _____
- b. To what end did God send Jesus into the world? John 3:15-16 _____
- c. In the 1st several verses of Romans 2 judgment is being discussed. What do those who obey God seek? Rom. 2:7 _____

E. Hell

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teaches:

- a. There is **no hell**
 - (1) "In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, there is no hell. All will find a measure of salvation." (Evidences and Reconciliations, 1960, p. 216)
 - (2) "Christians believed that to receive eternal punishment was to be punished eternally. This popular Christian error was corrected in a revelation" (Outlines of Ecclesiastical History, p.408).
 - (3) "Nevertheless, it is not written that there shall be no end to this torment" (Doctrine and Covenants 19:6).
 - (4) "We learn from the Doctrine and Covenants that eternal punishment, or everlasting punishment, does not mean that a man condemned will endure this punishment forever" (Doctrines of Salvation, vol.2, p.160).
- b. There **is a hell** (eternal damnation/punishment)

²⁹ www.spotlightministries.org.uk/ep.htm

- (1) "And any person who shall be so wicked as to receive a holy ordinance of the gospel from the ministers of any of these apostate churches will be sent down to hell with them, unless they repent of the unholy and impious act" (The Seer, p. 255).
- (2) "Adulterers shall be cast down to hell to suffer the vengeance of eternal fire; and their eventual destiny—after suffering the torments of the damned until the second resurrection—shall be that of the telestial kingdom (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 23,24).
- (3) They were denied bodies, were cast out onto the earth, and thus came the devil and his angels—a great host of sons of perdition. Those in this life who gain a perfect knowledge of the divinity of the gospel cause, a knowledge that comes only by revelation from the Holy Ghost, and who then link themselves with Lucifer and come out in open rebellion, also become sons of perdition. Their destiny, following their resurrection, is to be cast out with the devil and his angels, to inherit the same kingdom in a state where "their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" Joseph Smith said: "All sins shall be forgiven, except the sin against the Holy Ghost; for Jesus will save all except the sons of perdition (Mormon Doctrine, p. 746).

c. Hell **is temporary** at best/worst

- (1) "Every man who hears the gospel message is under obligation to receive it. If he fails, then in the spirit world he will be called upon to receive it" (Doctrines of Salvation, vol.2, p.183).
- (2) "...they will first go to hell and remain there until the corruption with which they are impregnated is burnt out; and the day will yet come when they will come to me and acknowledge me as their Savior, and I will redeem them and bring them forth from hell" (Journal of Discourses, vol.3, p.109).
- (3) "These are they who are thrust down into hell...who shall not be redeemed from the devil until the last resurrection" (Doctrine and Covenants 76: 84-85).
- (4) "After their resurrection, the great majority of those who have suffered in hell will pass into the telestial kingdom." (Mormon Doctrine, p. 350)

2. The Bible teaches:

- a. What does Heb. 9:27 say follows death? _____
- b. In Luke 16:19-31 Jesus describes two conditions after death. What is clear about the possibility of eternal life for the rich man? _____
- c. Mormons teach and practice 'proxy baptism' to save those who have died outside of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They base their 'salvation for the dead' on 1 Pet. 3:19-20 & 1 Pet. 4:6. Do these texts support their doctrine? Explain. _____

Mormonism - Book of Mormon

I. The Invitation to Others

A. Background

1. Claims Inspiration
 - a. "The Book of Mormon claims to be a divinely inspired record, written by a succession of prophets who inhabited ancient America. It professes to be revealed to the present generation for the salvation of all who will receive it, and for the overthrow and damnation of all nations who reject it. The book must either be true or false. If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God to man... if false it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions..," (Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, p15)
 - b. "We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God." (8th Article of Faith by Joseph Smith)
2. Delivered from God to a prophet
 - a. "If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth when he said that he stood in the presence of angels sent from the Lord, and obtained keys of authority, and the commandment to organize the Church of Jesus Christ once again on the earth, then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (Mormon Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol 1, p189-190)
 - b. "He that believeth in his heart and confesseth with his mouth that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith is his prophet to this generation, is of God; and he that confesseth not that Jesus has come in the flesh and sent Joseph Smith with the fulness of the Gospel to this generation, is not of God, but is antichrist." (Mormon Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol 9, p312)
3. Most accurate of all books
 - a. "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by it's precepts, than by any other book. (Joseph Smith in *History of the Church*, Vol 4, p461)
4. Inspired translation
 - a. "...we make no reservation respecting the Book of Mormon on the ground of incorrect translation. To do so would be to ignore attested facts as to the bringing forth of that book. Joseph Smith the prophet, seer, and revelator, through whom the ancient record has been translated into our modern tongue,

expressly avers that the translation was effected through the gift and power of God... (*The Vitality of Mormonism*, Apostle James E. Talmage, c1919, p. 127)

5. Examine it and put it to the test
 - a. "If faith will not bear to be investigated; if its preachers and professors are afraid to have it examined, their foundation must be very weak." (Orson Pratt, *Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon*, p1)
 - b. "...the nature of the message in the Book of Mormon as such, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; If false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it.. .If after rigid examination, it be found an imposition, it should be extensively published to the world as such; the evidence and arguments on which the imposture was detected, should be clearly and logically stated, that those who have been sincerely yet unfortunately deceived, may perceive the nature of the deception, and be reclaimed, and that those who continue to publish the delusion, may be exposed and silenced, not by physical force, neither by persecutions, bare assertions, nor ridicule, but by strong and powerful arguments, by evidence adduced from scripture and reason." (Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, p15)
 - c. "Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-Day-Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol 16, p46,)
6. The Bible's test
 - a. What did John challenge his audience to do? 1 John 4:1 _____
 - b. How did the Bereans accomplish this? Acts 17:11 _____
 - c. What is God's test of a prophet? Deut. 18:21-22 _____
 - d. What was God's warning to Israel even for those who would claim to be God's prophets and give a 'sign or wonder' that came true? Deut. 13:1-4 _____
 - e. What source of truth did Isaiah point Israel to? Isa. 8:20 _____
 - f. What warning did God give through the prophet Jeremiah? Jer. 23:16 _____
 - g. What does the Bible claim for itself? 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21 _____
 - h. How can we know this claim to be true?; John 16:13; Heb 2:3-4 _____
 - i. What did Paul state emphatically about those preaching the various 'gospels' faced by Christians? Gal. 1:6-9 _____

II. The Book of Mormon

A. General Contents

1. Covers from ~2200 BC to 421 AD
2. A 'history' of God's dealings with the early inhabitants of the Americas

3. Three migrations from the Eastern Hemisphere.
 - a. The First migration - the "Jaredites."
 - b. The Second Jewish migration - included a prophet Lehi
 - c. The Third Jewish migration followed by war
 - d. Appearance of Christ (AD 34) brings peace
 - e. War erupted again

B. Time of Writing

1. Claimed complete by 421 AD
2. Buried in the Hill Cumorah until revealed to Smith by Moroni

C. Original Language

1. Written in "Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics"
 - a. "...that none other people knoweth our language; therefore he hath prepared means for interpretation thereof." (Mormon 9:34)

D. Means of Discovery/Translation

1. Joseph Smith receives first vision in 1820 - 'restore the church'
2. Second vision in 1823 - Moroni reveals location of the six gold plates
3. Four years later, he receives the plates
 - a. Apostle James Talmage described the gold plates, saying, "The plates of the Book of Mormon... were... each about seven inches wide by eight inches long, and in thickness a little less than that of ordinary sheet tin. They were fastened together by three rings running through the plates near one edge; together they formed a book nearly six inches in thickness" (*Articles of Faith*, p. 262).
4. Translated by Smith by means of a hat and a seer stone, behind a veil
 - a. Dictated in English to individual scribes
5. 'Witnessed' by the group of 3 and group of 8³⁰ (emphasis mine)
 - a. Key point from the group of 3
 - (1) "...an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that **we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings** thereon..."
 - b. Key point from the group of 8
 - (1) "...Joseph Smith, Jr...has **shown unto us the plates** of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated we did handle with our hands; and we also

³⁰ Appendix 1

saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship."

- c. Not all was as it was reported however (emphasis mine):
 - (1) "Some of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, who handled the plates and conversed with angels of God, were afterwards left to doubt and to disbelieve that they had ever seen an angel." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol 7, p164)
 - (2) "the shock that was given to the church became more severe than on any previous occasion...one of the first presidency, several of the Twelve Apostles, High Council, Presidents of Seventies, the witnesses of the Book of Mormon. Presidents of Far West, and a number of others standing high in the church were all carried away in this apostasy...were going to **renounce the Book of Mormon** and Joseph Smith. (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol 17, p114-115)
 - (3) "We have of late learned, that Parish, and most of this combination have openly **renounced the Book of Mormon**... the church has had much sorrow during the past winter on account of the unfaithfulness of Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Lyman E. Johnson, and in consequence of this, and their opposition to our beloved brother Joseph Smith Jr... they have been excluded from our fellowship. (*Elder's Journal*, 1838, p36-38)
- 6. 'Authenticated' by Prof. Anthon & Dr. Mitchell a. Professor Anthon called the "gold plates" story a hoax (letter to E.D. Howe, a Painsville, Ohio, newspaper editor).
- 7. According to Joseph Smith, the translation was also verified by the Lord's voice in June of 1829
 - a. History of the Manuscripts
 - b. History of the Book of Mormon Printings
 - (1) The first edition of the Book of Mormon came out in March of 1830.
 - (2) The 1840 and 1842 Nauvoo editions were the last two editions printed in Joseph Smith's lifetime.
 - (3) In 1869, Brigham Young had the 1842 edition reprinted in his newly invented phonetic alphabet.
 - (4) Apostle Orson Pratt was in charge of the 1879 revision, which was the first version with verses and foot notes.
 - (5) Apostle James Talmage was in charge of the 1920 revision, which put the text into two columns and changed the footnotes.
 - (6) Apostle Bruce R. McConkie was a key influence in the 1981 revision with new foot notes, cross references and a revised Topical Guide. As these editions were printed in following years, the printing dates were updated without changing the text.
- 2. There are seven regular English versions (1830, 1837, 1840, 1842, 1879, 1920, and 1981). The text of all Books of Mormon dated from 1921 to 1980 is the same as 1920.

B. Obvious Internal Problems

1. Plagiarisms
2. Archeology

II. The Book of Mormon vs. The Bible - Evidences

A. Claims

1. The Book of Mormon
 - a. Claims to be inspired of God
 - (1) "We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God." (8th Article of Faith by Joseph Smith)
 - b. Claims not only to be a revelation of God but that the very translation of that revelation is God inspired:
 - (1) "We heard a voice from out of the bright light above us saying, ... These plates have been revealed [and translated] by the power of God. **The translation of them which you have seen is correct, ...**" (*History of the Church*, 1:55; emphasis mine).
 - c. Claims it contains the fulness of the gospel (or does it?)
 - (1) "...Book of Mormon contains the fulness of my everlasting gospel" (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 27:5)
 - (2) "...the Bible **and** the Book of Mormon, in which is the fulness of the gospel." (*Doctrines & Covenants*, 42:12; emphasis mine)
 - (3) Either it did or it didn't; which is it? Definitely not a repeat of the gospel. As will be seen, it has a number of differences with the Bible
2. The Bible
 - a. What did Jesus promise the apostles? John 16:13 _____
 - b. Did Paul leave anything out in his preaching in Ephesus? Acts 20:27 _____
 - c. What did Peter confirm? 2 Pet 1:3 _____
 - d. How did Jude describe "the faith"? Jude 1:3 _____

B. Style & Content

1. The Book of Mormon
 - a. Contains word for word quotations (or very close paraphrases) from the King James Version of 1611

(1) Examples (all written prior to 33 A.D.)

<u>King James Version</u>	<u>Book of Mormon</u>
the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:5)	the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts (1 Nephi 11:22)
made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14)	made white in the blood of the Lamb (1 Nephi 12:11)
O wretched man that I sin (Rom. 7:24)	O wretched man that I am (2 Nephi 4:17)
to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life (Rom. 8:6)	to be carnally-minded is death, and to be spiritually minded is life (2 Nephi 9:39)
lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us (Heb. 12:1)	lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you (Alma 7:15)
Marvel not that. . . Ye must be born again (John 3:7)	Marvel not that all mankind . . . must be born again (Mosiah 27:25)
Isaiah 2-14	2 Nephi 12-14 (13 chapters!)

- b. Written in old English style like the KJV (language of 1600's)
 - (1) Dialect of Smith's time did not use terms like "ye", "thee", "thou", etc.
 - (2) Doctrines & Covenants also written in this style
 - c. Italicized words of the KJV are repeated in the Book of Mormon
 - d. Greek or anglicized Greek words are used (e.g. baptism, Alpha & Omega)
 - e. Contains a quotation from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (2 Nephi 1:14)
 - f. No Book of Mormon original 'language' copies
2. The Bible
- a. Contains how many books and how many different authors? _____
 - b. Over what period of time was it written? _____
 - c. In your own words, what is the common theme in the Bible _____
-
- d. Substantial documentary evidence available in the original (and translated versions) languages
 - (1) Approx. 5,000 manuscripts
 - (2) Versions - c. 8,000 of Latin Vulgate and c. 1,000 of others.
 - (3) Quotations - over 19,000 just of the gospels and over 30,000 of all of the New Testament before 325 AD.

C. Credibility of the Author & Witnesses

1. The Book of Mormon
 - a. Joseph Smith
 - (1) Money-digger
 - (2) Polygamist
 - (3) Adulterer
 - (4) Charged with a number of crimes
 - (5) False prophet (see lesson on "Testing the Prophets")
 - b. The Three 'Witnesses': Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris
 - (1) Oliver Cowdery
 - (a) Left the Mormons
 - (b) He recanted the Book of Mormon on becoming a member of the Methodist Church
 - (2) David Whitmer
 - (a) Left the Mormons
 - (b) From an address given by him
 - i) "If you believe my testimony to the Book of Mormon if you believe that God spake to us three witnesses by his own voice, then I tell you that in June 1838 God spake to me again by his own voice from the heavens, and told me to 'separate myself from among the Latter Day Saints, for as they sought to do unto me, so should it be done unto them'." (An Address to All Believers In Christ, by David Whitmer, 1887, p27-28)
 - (3) Martin Harris
 - (a) On printing a Mormon book, (*Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, Vol 1, Introduction, Wilford C. Wood) the printer had this to say:
 - i) "Martin was in the office when I finished setting up the testimony of the three witnesses, (Harris, Cowdery, and Whitmer) I said to him, 'Martin. did you see those plates with your naked eyes?' Martin looked down for an instant, raised his eyes up, and said, I **saw them with a spiritual eye**.'" (Emphasis mine)
 - (b) Left the Mormons and joined with the Shakers
 - (c) After leaving the Shakers the following was attributed to him:
 - i) "Harris declared repeatedly that he had as much evidence for a Shaker book he had as for the Book of Mormon." (The Braden and Kelley Debate, p173)
 - c. The Eleven 'Witnesses': Christian Whitmer, Hiram Page, Jacob Whitmer, Joseph Smith Sr., Peter Whitmer Jr., Hyrum Smith, John Whitmer, Samuel H. Smith

- (1) David Whitmer wrote, "All of the eight witnesses who were then living (except the three Smiths) came out [of the LDS Church]. Peter and Christian Whitmer were dead. Oliver Cowdery came out also" (Address to All Believers in Christ, p. 28).

D. Archeology

1. Mormons have long held that archeology 'proves' the Book of Mormon, e.g.
 - a. "Many Archaeologists agree that: There were two great migrations from Asia to America. The first about 4,000 years ago. The second migration about 600 B.C. They were of the House of Israel. They worshiped one Supreme God. They had a knowledge of early Bible history. They practiced Christianity. They had a knowledge of the Birth and Death of Christ." (*Whence Came The American Indian - America's Ancients Speak From the Dust*)
 - (1) Smithsonian Institute contradicted the claims of the above pamphlet
 - (a) But, Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution in 1963 said in a letter to the author of this book, "It is doubtful if any migrations occurred as late as 600 B.C. There is no evidence whatever of any migration from Israel to America, and likewise no evidence that pre-Columbian Indians had any knowledge of Christianity or the Bible."³¹
 - b. "The inquiry you made regarding the Book of Mormon is a commendable one and I will be pleased to mention the part which it has played in helping the government to unravel the problem of the aborigines.... it was 1920 before the Smithsonian Institute officially recognized the Book of Mormon as a record of any value. All discoveries up to this time were found to fit the Book of Mormon accounts and so the heads of the Archaeological Department decided to make an effort to discover some of the larger cities described in the Book of Mormon records."

"All members of the department were required to study the account and make rough-maps of the various populated centers.... During the past fifteen years the Institute has made remarkable study of its investigations of the Mexican Indians and it is true that the Book of Mormon has been the guide to almost all of the major discoveries."

"When Col. Lindbergh flew to South America five years ago, he was able to sight heretofore undiscovered cities which the archaeologists at the Institute had mapped out according to the locations described in the Book of Mormon. This record is now quoted by the members of the Institute as an authority and is recognized by all advanced students in the field." (Letter written to Earnest L. English on May 3, 1936 and distributed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in a local Cleveland meeting in 1959)
2. The view of the scientific community (emphasis mine)

³¹ Curtis Carr, *Mormonism, Will It Stand The Test*

- a. "In reply to your letter of February 11, 1951, permit me to say that the mistaken idea that the Book of Mormon has been used by scientific organizations in conducting archeological explorations has become quite current in recent years. It can be stated definitely that there is no connection between the archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the Book of Mormon."
"There is no correspondence whatever between archeological sites and cultures as revealed by scientific investigations and as recorded in the Book of Mormon, hence the book cannot be regarded as having any historical value from the standpoint of the aboriginal peoples of the New World.
The Smithsonian Institution has never officially recognized the Book of Mormon as a record of value on scientific matters, and the Book has never been used as a guide or source of information for discovering ruined cities." (Letter from Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Smithsonian Institution, dated February 16, 1951, photographically reproduced in *The Book of Mormon Examined*, by Arthur Budvarson, La Mesa, California, 1959, p.37).
 - b. "Mormon archaeologists over the years have almost unanimously accepted the Book of Mormon as an accurate, historical account of the New World peoples... They believe that Smith could translate hieroglyphs.... Likewise, they accept the Kinderhook Plates as a bona fide archaeological discovery, and the reading of them as correct. Let me now state uncategorically that as far as I know there is **not one professionally trained archaeologist, who is not a Mormon, who sees any scientific justification for believing the foregoing to be true**, and I would like to state that there are quite a few Mormon archaeologists who join this group...." (Michael Coe,, one of the best known authorities on archaeology of the New World, in an article for Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, 1973)
3. Archeological confirmation of the Book of Mormon - the record:
 - a. Archaeologists have never successfully used the Book of Mormon as a guide in locating ancient ruins.
 - b. No Book of Mormon cities have been found.
 - c. No Book of Mormon names have been found in New World inscriptions.
 - d. No genuine inscriptions have been found in Hebrew.
 - e. No genuine inscriptions have been found in Egyptian or anything similar to Egyptian, which could correspond to Joseph Smith's "reformed Egyptian."
 - f. No ancient copies of the Book of Mormon scriptures have been found.
 - g. No ancient inscriptions of any kind indicate that the ancient inhabitants held Hebrew or Christian beliefs. Instead, the beliefs of New World natives are pagan.
 - h. No mention of any people, nations, or places mentioned in the Book of Mormon have been found.
 - i. No artifacts of any kind that demonstrate the truth of the Book of Mormon have been found.

4. Compare the above with the record of the Bible. Have cities (including 'lost cities'), world powers, governments, governmental leaders, etc. been found which confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible? _____

III. The Book of Mormon vs. Mormonism

A. The Book of Mormon vs. the Book of Mormon

1. Claims to be the Word of God which has been translated by the power of God
 - a. "We heard a voice from out of the bright light above us saying, ... These plates have been revealed [and translated] by the power of God. **The translation of them which you have seen is correct**, ..." (*History of the Church*, 1:55; emphasis mine).
2. However note just a few the changes that have been made over the years

	1830 Edition of the Book of Mormon	1981 Edition of the Book of Mormon
1 Nephi 11:18	"And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of [. . .] God, after the manner of the flesh	"And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God , after the manner of the flesh."
1 Nephi 11:21	"And the angel said unto me, behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the [. . .] Eternal Father!..."	"And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! ..."
1 Nephi 11:32	"...And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, [. . .] the Everlasting God, was judged of the world..."	"...And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world..."
1 Nephi 13:40	"...and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is [. . .] the Eternal Father and the Savior of the world..."	"...and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father , and the Savior of the World..."
1 Nephi 19:20	"...for had not the Lord been merciful, to shew unto me concerning them, even as he had prophets of old; [. . .] for he surely..."	"...for had not the Lord been merciful, to show unto me concerning them, even as he had prophets of old, I should have perished also. "
1 Nephi 20:1 changed in 1964 ed.	"Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, [. . .] which swear..."	"Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, or out of the waters of baptism , who swear..."
Mosiah 21:28 changed in 1964 ed.	"...king Benjamin had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings;..."	"...king Mosiah had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings;..."
Alma 29:4	"...yea, I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees	"...yea, I know that he allotteth unto men [. . .] according to their wills..."

	1830 Edition of the Book of Mormon	1981 Edition of the Book of Mormon
	which are unalterable , according to their wills..."	
Alma 46:40	"...because of the excellent qualities of the many plants and roots which God had prepared, to remove the cause of diseases which was subsequent to man by the nature of the climate."	"...because of the excellent qualities of the many plants and roots which God had prepared to removed the cause of diseases, to which men were subject by the nature of the climate."
3 Nephi 3:23	"And the land which was appointed was the land of Zarahemla, and the land which was between the land of Zarahemla and the land Bountiful."	"And the land which was appointed was the land of Zarahemla [. . .] and the land Bountiful..."
3 Nephi 16:10	"and thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you at that day, When the Gentiles shall sin against my Gospel, and shall subject the fulness of my Gospel , and shall be lifted up..."	"And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel,[. . .] and shall be lifted up..."
3 Nephi 22:4	"...for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, [. . .] and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more."	"...for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy youth , and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more."
Ether 9:2	"...nevertheless, the Lord was merciful unto Omer, and also to his sons and to his daughters, which were not, or which did not seek his destruction."	"Nevertheless, the Lord was merciful unto Omer, and also to his sons, and to his daughters [. . .] who did not seek his destruction."

B. Joseph Smith vs. the Book of Mormon

1. Joseph Smith recognized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as a prophet
 - a. "Every intelligent person under the heavens that does not, when informed, acknowledge that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of God, is in darkness, and is opposed to us and to Jesus and his kingdom on the earth." (*Journal of Discourses*, 8:223)

2. Over time Smith's 'revelations' regarding Deity changed frequently and were inconsistent
 - a. Historically in his 'books of prophecy'

Joseph Smith's Changing Doctrine of Deity (Viewed in scriptural order)		
Date	Book / Reference	Doctrine
2000 B.C.	Book of Abraham 4:3-7	Plurality of Gods
1400 B.C.	Book of Moses 1:6; 2:3-7	Monotheism
600 B.C. to A.D. 400	Book of Mormon Alma 11:26-29	Modalistic Monotheism
A.D. 1830	Early (April 1830) Doctrine & Covenants 20:17, 19, 28	Monotheism
A.D. 1830 -	Joseph Smith Translation	Modalistic Monotheism
A.D. 1834-1835	Lectures on Faith, 5th Lecture	Binatarian Monotheism, or Bitheism
A.D. 1839	Later (March 1839) Doctrine & Covenants 121:26, 28, 32	Possibility of Plurality of gods
A.D. 1839-1843	Doctrine & Covenants 131:17- 18; 132:20, 37	Plurality of gods (but unlike in the Book of Abraham)
A.D. 1844	[King Follet Discourse*]	Plurality of Gods

- b. Examples of the 'one God' to many 'gods' and man's exaltation to god
 - (1) One God or Many?

<p>Book of Mormon</p> <p>"And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one god? And he answered, No" (Alma 11:26-29).</p>	<p>Joseph Smith</p> <p>"And then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the gods, organized and formed the havens and the earth."</p> <p>"And they (the gods) said: Let there be light; and there was light."</p> <p>"And the gods took counsel among themselves and said: Let us go down and form man in our image, after our likeness."</p> <p>"And the gods said among themselves: On the seventh time we will end our work, which we have counseled; and we will rest on the seventh time from all our work which we have counseled."</p>
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(2) God: Spirit or Flesh?

<p>Book of Mormon</p> <p>"And the king said: is god that great spirit that brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem? And Aaron said unto him: yea, he is that great spirit, and he created all things both in heaven and in earth" (Alma 22:9,10a).</p> <p>"And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a great spirit? And he said, Yea. And Ammon said: this is god" (Alma 18:26-28a).</p> <p>"Holy, holy God; we believe that thou art God, and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit forever" (Alma 31:15).</p>	<p>Joseph Smith</p> <p>"If the veil were rent today and the great God who holds this world on its orbit and who upholds all worlds and things by His power was to make Himself visible, - I say, if you were to see Him today, you would see Him like a man in form - like yourselves in all the person, image, and Very form as a man...."</p> <p>"The father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of spirit."</p>
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(3) Always God or an Exalted Man?

<p>Book of Mormon</p> <p>"For do we not read that god is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?" (Mormon 9:9).</p> <p>"For behold, GOD knowing all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men" (Moroni 7:22).</p> <p>"For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but HE IS unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity" (Moroni 8:18).</p>	<p>Joseph Smith</p> <p>"God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!...</p> <p>"It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God and to know that he was once a man like us; yea, that God Himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ Himself did; and I will show it from the Bible."</p>
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3. Many more of his 'revelations' were at odds with one another

One God Book of Mormon: Alma 11:27-39, 44; 2 Nephi 31:21; Mormon 7:7; 3 Nephi 11:27 Testimony of the three witnesses	Plural Gods Doctrine and Covenants: Section 121:32; 132:18-20, 37
God is a Spirit B. of M. - Alma 18:26-28; 22:8-11	God Has a Body D. & C. - Section 130:22
Creation - One God B. of M. - 2 Nephi 2:14; Jacob 4:9 Pearl of Great Price - Moses, Chapter 2	Creation - Plural Gods Book of Abraham - Chapters 4 and 5
God Cannot Lie B. of M. - Ether 3:12; 2 Nephi 9:34	God Commands Lying P.G.P. - Book of Abraham 2:22-25
God's Word Unchangeable B. of M. - Alma 41:8	God's Word Can Change D. & C. - Section 56:4-5
No Pre-Existence of Man B. of M. - Jacob 4:9; Alma 18:28, 34-36	Man Pre-Existed D. & C. - Section 93:23, 29-33 P.G.P. - Bk of Abraham 3:18, 21-23
Death Seals Man's Fate	Chance After Death

B. of M. - Mosiah 2:36-39; Alma 34:32-35	D. & C. - Section 76:106-112; 88:99
Heathen Saved Without Baptism B. of M. - Moroni 8:22-23 2 Nephi 9:25-26; Mosiah 15:24-27	Baptism for Dead D. & C. - Section 128:5, 17-18
Murder Can Be Forgiven B. of M.- 3 Nephi 30:2	No Forgiveness For Murder D. & C. - Section 42:18
Polygamy Condemned B. of M. - Jacob 1:15, 2:24, 3:5; Mosiah 11:2	Polygamy Commanded D. & C. - Section 132:1, 37-39, 61
Adam in America D. & C. - Section 107:53; 116; 117:8	Adam in Old World P.G.P. - Book of Moses 3:8, 10-15

C. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints vs. the Book of Mormon

1. 12 Essential Mormon Doctrines not Found in the Book of Mormon
 - a. Church organization
 - b. Plurality of Gods
 - c. Plurality of wives doctrine
 - d. Word of Wisdom
 - e. God is an exalted man
 - f. Celestial marriage
 - g. Men may become Gods
 - h. Three degrees of glory
 - i. Baptism for the dead
 - j. Eternal progression
 - k. The Aaronic Priesthood
 - l. Melchizedek Priesthood

Mormonism - Teaching a Mormon

I. Some Considerations

A. Recognize & Deal with the Question of Authority

1. Is the Bible authoritative for a Mormon? Explain _____

2. What do Mormons accept as their authority? _____

B. Demonstrate that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is not Reliable or Trustworthy

1. Review: What is a cult? _____
2. What are some characteristics of a cult?
3. What might be used to undermine the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and a Mormon's confidence in its teachings? _____

C. Destroying a Mormon's Confidence in His Doctrine

1. What is the simplest and clearest way to sow the seed of doubt in a Mormon's confidence in the basis of his beliefs and the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints? _____

2. Suggested approach
 - a. Establish how one determines a true prophet - what tools can you use? _____

 - b. Examine the 'prophecies' of Smith and Young in particular in meeting this test. How can this be done?

 - c. Examine the Book of Mormon and put it to the test that their own 'prophets' demanded - how might this be approached? _____

- d. If the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 'prophets' have been false in their prophecies what does that say about its trustworthiness? What about its doctrines? _____

Appendix I
Characteristics of Cults

<u>Theological Characteristics:</u>	<u>Sociological Characteristics:</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Devaluation of the Bible.2. Devaluation of the nature of God.3. Denial of the Trinity.4. Devaluation of the Person of Christ.5. Devaluation of the life and work of Christ.6. Non-biblical teachings about the Holy Spirit.7. Exalted view of human nature.8. False basis of salvation.9. Non-biblical teachings about the after-life.10. Demonic activity denied or overemphasized.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Deceptive recruiting practices.2. Dynamic and authoritarian leadership.3. Elitism.4. Cultic vocabulary.5. Alienation from family and friends.6. Legalism.7. Induced fatigue.8. Sanction oriented.9. Anti-intellectual.10. Thought stopping.11. No professional clergy.12. Doctrine in flux/ false prophecies.

Appendix II

Jehovah's Witnesses - Chronology

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY³²

1852 (February 16) - Charles Taze Russell born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

-raised in strict Presbyterian home, father in clothing business.

-at age 16 is thoroughly routed by non-believer in evangelistic encounter over the horribleness of Hell.

1869 (November 8) - Joseph Franklin Rutherford, 2nd President of the Society, born in Morgan County, Missouri. Raised a Baptist

1870 - C.T. Russell attends meeting of Millerite, Jonas Wendell. Hears for first time denial of existence of Hell.

-studies Bible extensively, departs from Adventism on Biblical interpretation.

-teaches that Hell does not exist. His own Bible study group in Pittsburgh elect him as "Pastor."

-orthodoxy is castigated and slowly Russell becomes the sole source of truth for his followers.

-leaves clothing business to speak and preach.

1874 - According to Russell's theology Christ returned invisibly (2nd Presence). He actually "discovered" this in 1875.

1879 - Russell publishes "Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence" magazine. This is the predecessor to their present magazine.

-the first issues went out at 6,000 a month.

-now printed (with Awake) at 1.1 million a day in 110 languages.

-Marries Maria Francis Ackley who understands Russell to be the "faithful and wise servant" of Matthew 24:45.

1880 - Bible Students in 7 states from East Coast to Ohio.

-said his system of theology was not his own invention. God revealed it to His humble servant.

-when asked how he received such information from God, he said...

1881 - Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society formed.

1882 - Russell rejects the doctrine of the Trinity.

³² <http://neirr.org/jwschrono.htm>

1884 - Zion's Watch Tower and Tract Society officially incorporated. Twelve years later Zion is dropped from the title.

1889 - First building, headquarters, purchased in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

1893 - Frederick Franz, 4th President of the Society, born on September 12.

1894 - Joseph Rutherford has first contact with Watchtower pioneers (missionaries).

1895 - "Congregations"/Bible study groups encouraged to study Russell's "Studies in the Scriptures" in their meetings.

- Russell's chief outlet for spreading his "truth."

- Series teaches that God has one harmonious plan for the ages and that this plan is gradually revealed.

- attacks creeds, denies eternal punishment, Trinity, the human soul, physical return of Christ.

- Russell felt that God had revealed His plan to him alone, orthodoxy was to be attacked because it was satanic.

- Russell discouraged his people from studying his earlier works because they were immature, theology always in flux, seeds of progressive revelation.

1896 - Maria, his wife, reverses stance on Matthew 24:45-47. Russell is no longer the "faithful and wise servant." He is now the "evil servant" of later verses.

1903 - Maria files for legal separation.

1905 - "Berean Studies" (Russell's teachings arranged topically) now used in all congregations.

- Nathan Homer Knorr, 3rd President of Society, born on April 23 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

1906 - Rutherford gives self "wholeheartedly to the movement."

1908 - Property acquired in Brooklyn, New York, future headquarters of the Society.

- purchase old Henry Ward Beecher home and church, Plymouth Bethel.

- building renamed Brooklyn Tabernacle.

1914 - God's kingdom to be ushered in on earth. "Times of the Gentiles" to end with Second Coming of Jesus to crush Gentile powers.

- Russell began to teach this back in 1891.

- "the full establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth."

1915 - Russell reinterprets failure of 1914 prophecy, refuses to acknowledge failure. 1914 did bring an end to the "Time of the Gentiles" but it is progressive, to be completed in a few years.

1916 - Charles Taze Russell dies.

1917 - Joseph Franklin Rutherford is legally elected 2nd President of the Society. A time of great administrative reorganization and restructuring begins. Rutherford begins a purge of all dissenters.

- struggle with Paul Johnson of International Bible Students in England.

- fight finally broke out at lunch at Bethel Headquarters.

-Rutherford has physical tussle with Johnson.

During the next 13 years splinter groups formed in protest to the many changes that occurred in the Society: Layman's Home Missionary Society, Pastoral Bible Institute, Stand Fast Bible Students Association, Dawn Bible Students, etc.

1918 - President Rutherford and 7 others jailed for anti war activities, gains martyr status.

1919 - All eight leaders are released from prison after nine months.

1920 - Legal indictments against the eight leaders are dropped. Rutherford publishes, "[Millions Now Living Will Never Die!](#)" In this booklet 1925 is predicted as the end of the world, "the completion of all things."

- Rutherford shifts emphasis in Society from personal holiness to door-to-door evangelism.

- Rutherford carried on and intensified the organizations assertion that it is the sole repository of God's truth. That Rutherford himself is God's mouth piece.

1925 - "End of World" prediction vastly boosts Watchtower membership. People sell farms, businesses, homes, leave jobs, etc. in preparation for the end. Year passes quietly.

1926 - Disappointed tens of thousands leave Society during next couple of years.

1927 - Rutherford begins to change emphasis from Russell to the Society as the "faithful and wise servant." This "servant class," the 144,000, is now God's channel of communication.

1928 - Rutherford rejects [Russell's Great Pyramid of Gizeh](#) as a method of determining Biblical endtimes chronology.

1929 - Romans 13 is reinterpreted, all governments of the world are Satanically controlled.

1930 - The doctrine of Christ's Second Presence is changed from 1874 to 1914.

1931 - During the 1931 convention Rutherford's followers are called Jehovah's Witnesses based upon Isaiah 43:10.

1934 - Rutherford begins to guide the Society into a new purpose, the vindication of Jehovah's name. This is a shift from being at least somewhat "Christ" centered to being centered on Jehovah of the Old Testament.

1935 - Saluting the flag is idolatry.

1936 - Rutherford increases the Society's alienation from Christendom by proclaiming the cross is a pagan symbol.

1938 - The United States is divided into 11 regions, 148 zones.

1939 - In the continuing change from Christ centered to Jehovah centered, the official magazine publication is changed from, "The Watchtower and Herald of Christ's Presence" to "The Watch Tower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom."

1942 - Joseph Rutherford dies, 108,000 members in Society. Nathan Homer Knorr becomes the 3rd President of the Society. Great time of education and training. Also a time of whitewashing the public image.

- Society membership about 129,000.

1943 - Theocratic Ministry School established. Intent is to train men on the local level in public speaking, use of Bible aids, etc.

- Watch Tower Bible School of Gilead founded in South Lansing, New York. This is designed to train the best for overseas missionary work.

1946 - Congregations organized into circuits, overseen by circuit servants.

1950-1961 - The New World Translation of the Bible is published and distributed.

- under Knorr's leadership the Watchtower continued to maintain that the Bible could not be understood apart from their direction...

1957 - Thirteen-story printing plant built in Brooklyn, New York.

1958 - The Kingdom Ministry School is established to prepare and train circuit overseers.

1960 - New eleven story Headquarters built in Brooklyn, New York.

1961 - Receiving a blood transfusion becomes a "disfellowshipping" offense.

1966 - The year 1975 is revealed as the end of 6,000 years of man's existence. The Millennial reign will begin.

1974 - Witnesses encouraged to sell their homes and spend remaining months in full time service to Jehovah. Membership increases dramatically since 1975 prediction.

1975 - The year passes quietly. Little is said about the failed prophecy until 1979. During the next few years many leave the Society.

1977 - Nathan Knorr dies. Society membership over 2 million.

1979 - Frederick Franz elected to Presidency. Power base has been transferred to the Governing Body. Position of President is now like figurehead.

1980-1982 - Intellectuals purged from the Society.

1992 - Frederick Franz dies at age 98. Milton Heschel elected 5th President of the Society. Membership close to 5 million.

2000 - Major reorganization separating the Governing Board from the legal entities. Three new corporations formed for the U.S. operations. Don Adams becomes President of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

Appendix III

Jehovah's Witnesses - "Russellites" or Not?

Jehovah's Witnesses become intensely disturbed whenever they are referred to as "Russellites" or their theology as "Russellism." But what does the record indicate?^{33 34}

A. Triune Godhead

Teaching of Russell

"This view [the Trinity] suited well the dark ages it helped to produce."

"This ... theory is as unscriptural as it is unreasonable."

"If it were not for the fact that this Trinitarian nonsense was drilled into us from earliest infancy and the fact that it is so soberly taught in Theological Seminaries by gray-haired professors... nobody would give it a moment's serious consideration."

How the great adversary [Satan] ever succeeded in fostering it [the triune Godhead] upon the Lord's people to bewilder and mystify them and render much of the Word of God of none effect is the real mystery."

Doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses

"Does this mean that Jehovah God (Elohim) and the . . . Son are two persons but at the same time one God and members of a so called 'trinity' or 'triune god'? When religion so teaches it violates the Word of God, wrests the Scriptures to the destruction of those who are misled, and insults God-given intelligence and reason."

"Only the religious 'Trinitarians' are presumptuous enough to claim, without Scripture basis, that two other persons are equal with Jehovah God; but Jesus does not himself claim to be one of such persons."

"The obvious conclusion, therefore, is that Satan is the originator of the 'Trinity' doctrine."

³³ Russell teachings from: Russell, *At-One-Ment Between God and Man*, Russell, *The Time Is at Hand*, Russell, *Plan of the Ages*

³⁴ Jehovah's Witnesses doctrines from: *The Truth Shall Make You Free*, *The Kingdom Is at Hand*, *"Let God Be True"*

B. Deity of Jesus Christ

Teaching of Russell

“Our Lord Jesus Christ is a God . . . still the united voice of the Scriptures must emphatically assert that there is but one Almighty God, the Father of all.”

“Our Redeemer existed as a spirit being before he was made flesh and dwelt amongst men. At that time, as well as subsequently, he was properly known as ‘a god’ a mighty one.”

“The Logos [Christ] himself was the beginning of the creation of God.”

“As chief of the angels and next to the Father, he [Christ] was known as the Archangel (highest angel or messenger), whose name, Michael signifies, ‘Who as God’ or ‘God’s Representative.’ ”

Doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses

“The true Scriptures speak of God’s Son, the Word, as ‘a god.’ He is a ‘mighty god,’ but not ‘the Almighty God, who is Jehovah’—Isaiah 9: 6.”

“At the time of his beginning of life he was created by the everlasting God, Jehovah, without the aid or instrumentality of any mother. In other words, he was the first and direct creation of Jehovah God... He was the start of God’s creative work. He was not an incarnation in flesh but was flesh, a human Son of God, a perfect man, no longer a spirit, although having a spiritual or heavenly post and background.”

“This One was not Jehovah God, but was ‘existing in the form of God.’ . . . He was a spirit person... he was a mighty one, although not almighty as Jehovah God is... he was a God, but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah.”

“Being the only begotten Son of God, . . . the Word would be a prince among all other creatures. In this office he [Christ] bore another name in heaven, which name is ‘Michael’ ... Other names were given to the Son in course of time.”

C. The Resurrection of Christ

Teaching of Russell

“Our Lord was put to death in flesh, but was made alive in spirit; he was put to death a man, but was raised from the dead a spirit being of the highest order of the divine nature.”

Doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses

“In his resurrection he was no more human. He was raised as a spirit creature.”

"It could not be that the man Jesus is the second Adam, the new father of the race instead of Adam; for the Man Jesus is dead, forever dead."

"He [Christ] instantly created and assumed such a body of flesh and such clothing as he saw fit for the purpose intended."

"Our Lord's human body... did not decay or corrupt..Whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere- no one knows."

"Jehovah God raised him from the dead, not as a human Son, but as a mighty immortal spirit Son... So the King Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature."

"Therefore the bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to his disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree. They were merely materialized for the occasion, resembling on one or two occasions the body in which he died."

"The firstborn one from the dead was not raised out of the grave a human creature, but he was raised a spirit."

D. The Physical Return of Christ

Teaching of Russell

"And in *like manner* as he went away (quietly, secretly, so far as the world was concerned, and unknown except for his followers), so in this manner, he comes again ."

"He comes to us in the early dawn of the Millennial Day. [Jesus] seems to say Learn that I am a spirit being, no longer visible to human sight."

"He [Christ] does not come in the body of his humiliation, a human body, which he took for the suffering of death . . . but in his glorious spiritual body."

Doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses

"Christ Jesus comes, not as a human, but as a glorious spirit creature."

"Since no earthly' men have ever seen the Father neither will they see the glorified Son

"It is a settled Scriptural truth, therefore, that human eyes will not see him at his second coming, neither will he come in a fleshly body."

E. The Existence of Hell or a Place of Conscious Torment after Death

Teaching of Russell

"Many have imbibed the erroneous idea that God placed our race on trial for life with the alternative of *eternal torture*, whereas nothing

Doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses

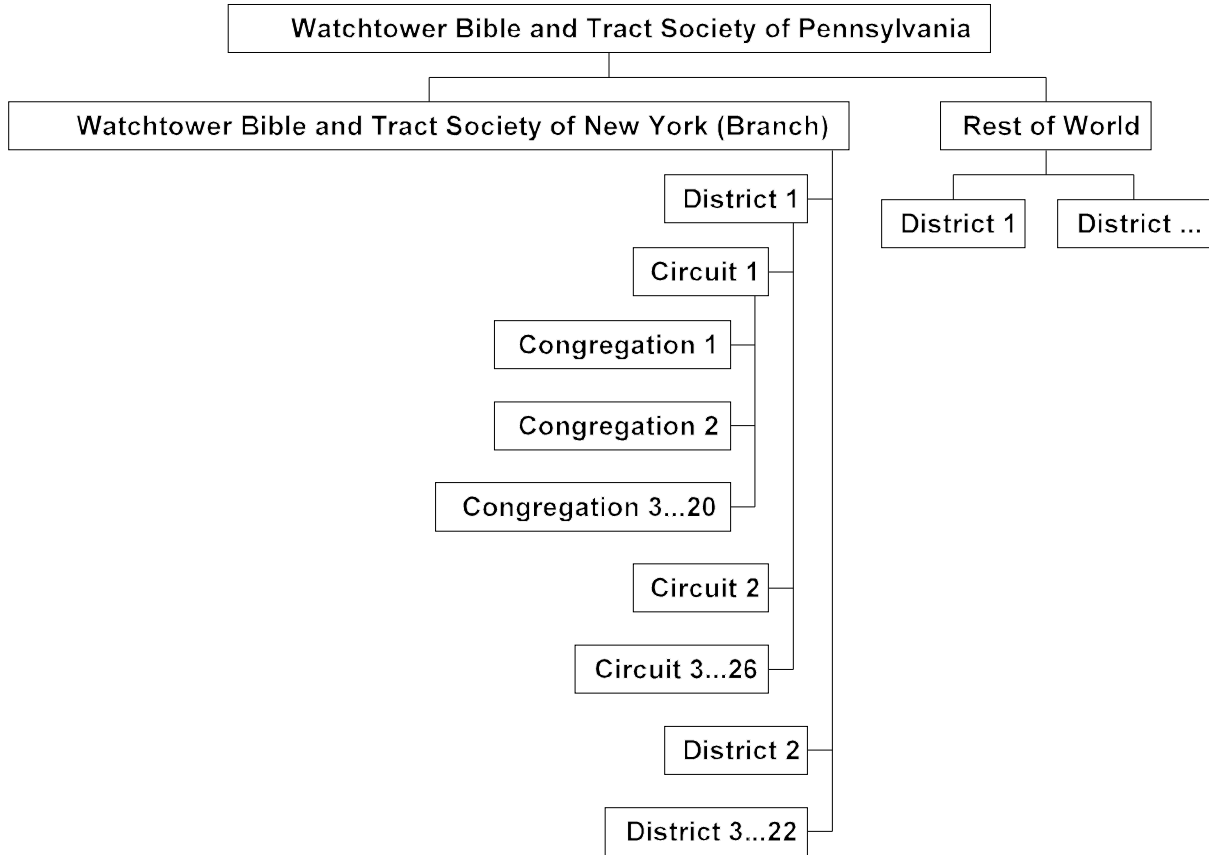
"The Bible hell is the tomb. the grave."

“Eternal torture is nowhere suggested in the Old Testament Scriptures, and only a few statements in the New Testament can be so misconstrued as to appear to teach it.”

God-dishonoring doctrine The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true.”

Appendix IV

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Organization Chart



Total U.S. Congregations = 11,400

Total ROW Congregations = 82,000

Appendix V

"Seven Steps" to Jehovah's Witnesses Publisher

- 1) Get literature into the hands of people through house-to-house or other outreach.
- 2) Follow up with a "back call" to determine and encourage interest.
- 3) Try to arrange a "book study," using the Society's latest books.
- 4) Get the person showing interest to come to the congregational "book study."
- 5) Bring those showing interest to the "Watchtower study."
- 6) Encourage attendance at the "Service meeting" and the "Theocratic Ministry" school. These two meetings train the Witnesses in their outreach program.
- 7) The last step is the dedication of the life to Jehovah in baptism.

Appendix VI **Mormon Writer Suspended by the Church**

SANDY, Utah — A retired Mormon educator who wrote a book questioning whether the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints misrepresented his authority as a prophet was suspended from the church Sunday.

Grant Palmer, 64, who wrote "An Insider's View of Mormon Origins," could have been excommunicated. Instead, he said the church "disfellowshipped" him, which meant he would retain his membership but lose certain privileges, such as being able to go into temples or serve in an official church capacity.

The length of such a punishment varies by case, and Palmer would not comment more specifically.

The fourth-generation Mormon said he still loved the church and wanted to remain a member because he believed in its fundamental message.

Church spokesman Dale Bills declined to comment.

Palmer, a church director and educator for 34 years who has a master's degree in history from Brigham Young University, said his research stemmed from an inability to reconcile discrepancies between history and his church service.

In the book, Palmer suggested that church founder Joseph Smith revised church scripture to his advantage.

The book said Smith did not actually translate the Book of Mormon "by the gift and power of God" from an ancient set of golden plates, as the church's followers believe. Palmer suggested Smith wrote it himself, leaning heavily on the King James Bible and personal experiences.

Los Angeles Times
Monday, December 13, 2004

Appendix VII
Mormons - The Eight & Three Witnesses³⁵

THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES

BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken. And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared It unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that It is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true. And it is marvelous in our eyes. Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of It; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that If we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment-seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

OLIVER COWDERY

DAVID WHITMER

MARTIN HARRIS

THE TESTIMONY OF EIGHT WITNESSES

BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shown unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen. And we lie not, God bearing witness of It.

CHRISTIAN WHITMER	HIRAM PAGE
JACOB WHITMER	JOSEPH SMITH, SEN.
PETER WHITMER, JUN.	HYRUM SMITH
JOHN WHITMER	SAMUEL H. SMITH

³⁵ *The Book of Mormon Preface*