

Bible/Book of Mormon:

QM 1-1

The Bible is a collection of books...history and law, prophecy and poetry. It tells the story of the Hebrew people and their dealings with God. It contains God's revelations to man, and from it we learn His will as to how we may obtain salvation by His grace.

The Book of Mormon is a record of the ancient Americans just as the Bible is a record of the early Hebrews. It contains the sayings of the prophets, the history of the rulers, and the teachings of the ministers among the early people of America.

Eyewitnesses to the Book of Mormon plates: QM 1-2

Twelve men saw and examined the plates and heard an angel's voice tell them that it was a true record and a correct translation and they were to bear this testimony to the world.

Eight men didn't claim to hear the heavenly voice, but they did see and examine the plates.

They all confirmed their testimony until death.

Revelation continues:

QM 2-1

Christ's church was restored by God through angel voices, angel visits, through the voice and power of God in revealing His will and plans to men. God established the church through modern revelation and He still speaks to us today. The church is divinely established and is a divinely directed body.

Revelation 22 (John) "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

Deuteronomy: 4 (Moses) "You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it."

Both scriptures say that men are not to add or subtract from the word of God. They don't even suggest that God himself doesn't intend to add things when He feels like it.

Jesus' Church Structure:

QM 3-1

Jesus is and always will be the head of His church. He leads the church spiritually, but still it has to have the leadership of men, too. While Jesus was still on earth He made provisions for continuing the earthly direction of His church after He left.

Office of High Priest

QM 3-2

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "Three presiding high priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the church." *(Like Peter, James and John)*

Office of Apostle

QM 3-3

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The twelve...are called to be the...special witnesses of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling."

Office of Seventy

QM 3-4

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the directions of the Twelve...in building up the church."

Luke: "...the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come."
(ministers of preparation and front line evangelism, preparing the way for the Lord)

Office of Bishop

QM 3-5

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The office of bishop is in administering all temporal things...to do the business of the church, to sit in judgment upon transgressors."

We're also told that bishops should give leadership in a teaching ministry for family life.

Office of Elder

QM 3-6

Doctrine & Covenants 104: "The elders are to administer in spiritual things...to hold the keys of all spiritual blessings of the church." *They are presiding ministers, giving spiritual leadership to the church and administering its ordinances of spiritual power.*

Office of Priest QM 3-7
Doctrine & Covenants 17:10, *They fit into the general plan for the complete ministry of Christ's church. Their specific duties pertain to family counseling and such ordinances as baptism in water and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

Office of Teacher QM 3-8
Doctrine & Covenants 17, *Teachers are responsible for church attendance and also act as ministers of reconciliation.*

Office of Deacon QM 3-9
Doctrine & Covenants 17, *Deacons are assistants to the teachers and share their ministerial functions of testimony and teaching as well as the ministry of reconciliation. Deacons are also ministers of temporal needs and care for the properties and the needs of worshiping congregations.*

Office of Evangelist QM 3-10
In Christ's church evangelists are to be revivalists, spiritual counselors, fathers to the church. Not being tied down with administrative duties they are free to carry their special kind of ministry wherever it's needed. Our evangelists preach the whole gospel of Christ...

Christ's Church: ...perfect in form and function to minister to the total needs of people...with the multiple and specialized ministry to do the job. QM 3-11

- *President and Prophet to represent Jesus*
- *Apostles and Seventies to direct the missionary work as special witnesses for Christ*
- *Bishops and deacons to take care of church business in temporal things*
- *High priests and elders to give pastoral leadership and administer the spiritual ordinances*
- *Priests to give family ministry in special counseling and administer the outward ordinances*
- *Evangelists and teachers to provide the ministry of reconciliation*

Restoration vs. Reformation:

QM 4-1
According to research the early church was faithful to Christ's teachings during the period of persecution by the Roman emperors. It was only after they converted emperor Constantine and the Romans took over that the **apostasy** started.

Apostasy, Pope Dictator, Pope's Inquisition QM 4-2
Conversions were not "true" and gradually they got things changed—adding elaborate rituals and new doctrines to make things more interesting.

The most important parts of Christ's teachings had been lost in that downward spiral through the centuries. All the love, the gentleness, the kingdom ideal which Christ had taught and lived...disappeared.

Men became more concerned with autocratic church decrees, elaborate ceremonies, official position, wealth and political power than with the business of building the kingdom of God on earth. Everything that happened was a direct result of the loss of that central ideal.

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy QM 4-3
Acts 20, Paul said, "After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy QM 4-4
Thessalonians, "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy QM 4-5
Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Prophets in New Testament Foretold Apostasy QM 4-6
Revelation, *In the first instance, the church was represented as a woman clothed in light and purity and persecuted by a great red dragon. And certainly the early Christians were persecuted and martyred by pagan Rome.*

On page 3 is the bottom half of QM 4-6

In the second vision the apostate church was represented by a woman dressed in purple and scarlet and jewels, riding on the dragon, and 'the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.' This church was to become the persecutor, instead of the persecuted. 'And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.'

Promise—Cherished by Latter Day Saints

'Behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder...'

God was to restore Christ's church to earth.

Protestant Churches are Reformed Catholic QM 4-7 churches, not a restoration of Christ's original church.

Martin Luther, 1500's, protests began

John Wesley said 'latter-day glory would come when God would arise to maintain His own cause and set up His own kingdom.'

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn asking God to choose 'new apostles'

Alexander Campbell, founder of the 'Christian' Church in America: the practical results of all creeds, reformations, and improvement warrant 'the conclusion that either some new revelation or some new development of the revelation of God must be made, before the hopes and expectations of all true Christians can be realized. We want the old gospel back and sustained by the ancient order of things.

Roger Williams, 'the apostasy of anti-christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew.'

Revelation: John said, 'And I saw QM 4-10 another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and...'

James 1:5, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'

Joseph Smith, Jr. (1820)

Two personages appeared and one of them spoke, pointing to the other one, 'This is my beloved Son; hear him.'

Joseph Smith, Jr.

QM 4-11

1823: Visited by an angel four times

1827: Metal plates and Urim and Thummim given

1829: Angelic messenger ordains—restoring authority to represent Christ which had been lost in the apostasy. April 6, 1830: Church of Jesus Christ organized by the power and authority of God and according to the pattern shown in the New Testament.

No other events in history qualify to fulfill those prophecies!

Prophets foretell a restoration of the gospel, QM 4-8 not merely a reformation:

Daniel 2: 'Men' could not restore Christ's church...or the kingdom...it had to come from God.

Isaiah 29: Jews return to homeland and it would become a fruitful country again, and, a sealed book would come out of the dust. 'Thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground...and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust...for the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.'

Book of Mormon Geography & Peoples

QM 5-1

Genesis 49: 'Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.' These blessings would prevail 'above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.'

Joshua 17: *Joseph's sons were to possess a certain land, Ephraim to the south and Manasseh to the north, and 'the sea is his border.*

'This people draw near me with their mouth, QM 4-9 and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.'

Top of page 3 ↗ is the bottom half of QM 4-9

The American continents: QM 5-2

Isaiah 16:8 ...they are gone over the sea...

Jeremiah 48:32 ...are gone over the sea...

Ezekiel 17:(12, 22) ...a choice land...

Deuteronomy 33:13 Joseph 'shall push the people together to the ends of the earth...a mountain high and eminent—blessed of the Lord be his land...'

Jeremiah 49:31 'Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.'

Isaiah 18 '...land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia.'

References: (evidence of Book of Mormon) QM 5-3

Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan, by John Lloyd Stephens.

Ancient America, by Baldwin

The Lost Empire of the Itzas and Mayas, by Theodore A. Willard

Ancient America and the Book of Mormon, by Hunter and Ferguson

Antiquities of Mexico, by Lord Kingsborough

Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan, by Diego de Landa

Maya Society, by William Gates

Myths of Mexico and Peru, Lewis Spence

Myths of the New World, by Daniel Brinton

It is exciting for people who accepted the Book of Mormon on faith to find their faith vindicated by external evidence. QM 5-4

John 2:23 Christ in America!

'And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.'

We believe that Christ, after his ascension, did visit America. And the Book of Mormon gives the account of that visit.

Quetzalcoatl QM 5-5

'his father created the world' –Lord Kingsborough

'expected to return at some time' –Dr. D.G. Brinton

'keep peace with all' –W.H. Prescott

'the cross as a symbol' –Lewis Spence

Who else could the white and bearded God have been, except Jesus Christ who had told his disciples in Jerusalem that he had other sheep not of that fold and he must visit them, too. If not Christ, then who?

The Bible prophesied that some of the tribe of Joseph would go over the sea to the land shadowing with wings. Some archaeologists agree that the early Americans could have come from the middle eastern countries. Christ said he was going to visit his other sheep, and then archaeology shows us the white god, Quetzalcoatl, with the star, cross, darkness, and all the legends which fit right into the story as the Book of Mormon records it. QM 5-6

The Bible foretold that there would be a restoration of God's church, told how it would come and when it would come. These things have been fulfilled in history. The Book of Mormon is the final witness to prove that we are the rightful church restored in the last days...it is the book out of the dust, substantiated by the Bible, by history, and the findings of archaeology. No other church makes any of those claims. We make them all. QM 5-7

Ezekiel 37 'take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.' QM 1-3

In biblical days they wrote on a scroll of paper rolled around a stick. Stick of Judah—the Bible; Stick of Joseph—the Book of Mormon. God tells us that we should use them together and they will become one in our hand.

Alma, ‘Faith, is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith, ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.’

2 Nephi, ‘If the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.’

Even the Catholic fathers admit that baptism by immersion was universal for hundreds of years, until they changed it to sprinkling for the sake of convenience.

3 Nephi 5:23-26 (Christ speaking to the Nephites when he visited them in America), ‘And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.’

QM 6-2

Baptism is more than a symbol! Christ made it a condition of our salvation. We must accept him, repent of our sins, and then be baptized by the water and the Spirit. He has made that plain in many places in the New Testament. I think, to be on the safe side, we had better know how to be baptized and not leave it to chance and convenience.

QM 6-3

Moroni 10, ‘...And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things. And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is. And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.’

The Doctrine and Covenants does for time what the Bible and the Book of Mormon do for place. Those ancient Scriptures show God as a universal God working with all people throughout the world. The Doctrine and Covenants shows God as an active God who continues to work with people in the present day.

The really important functions of prophecy are to reveal and interpret God to his people, to reveal his will and doctrines to us, to correct and reprove us when we need it, and to testify of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants—all of these books strengthen and amplify and witness for each other.

Zion – Christ Lives Now! QM 7-2
The Doctrine and Covenants is supposed to be our blueprint for building Zion.

‘After the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him, that he lives.’

The simplest and most eloquent testimony in Christendom...Christ lives! That’s what the Doctrine and Covenants means...that Christ lives now. He lives and leads his church as he did of old, openly, dynamically, personally. That is the heart of the Restoration. Back of the doctrines, the books, and the priesthood, stands the living Christ.

Paradise: the place where the spirits of the **righteous** people who accept Christ will reside waiting for the resurrection and final judgment.

Heaven: the place in which immortal man will live after his resurrection and the final judgment.

Revelation 2:7 & II Corinthians 12:4, 'Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.'

Paradise is the temporary residence of the spirits of the righteous until the day of final judgment. Heaven is the permanent residence of the righteous after the final judgment when the spirit and the body are reunited after the resurrection. For the 'spirit and the body are the soul of man.'

Final Judgment: everybody will be assigned QM 8-2 their proper place and reward in the hereafter

Hell: opposite of paradise, a temporary place, where the spirits of **those who have not accepted Christ or have not lived up to high standards of righteousness** will reside until the final judgment.

Lake of Fire: opposite of heaven, an everlasting place of punishment—this is the second death.

Revelation 20:13-14, 'And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.'

OPPOSITES

QM 8-3

Paradise: a place of rest for the spirits of **righteous**—they will be able to go on learning about God, gaining greater understanding than they had on earth.

Hell: a place of rehabilitation of **sinner**s—and the teaching of those who had no opportunity to learn of Christianity during their lives on earth.

QM 8-4

1 Peter 3:18-20: [Christ teaches in prison house]

Isaiah 24:21-22, 'prisoners gathered in the pit shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited'

Isaiah 42:6-7, 'open the blind eyes and bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.'

1 Peter, '...Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison.'

Unforgiveable sin:

QM 8-5

Blasphemers against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven.

That means those who have known God and Christ, have accepted them, and then denied them and worked against them...just as Lucifer and the angels did when they rebelled against God in heaven.

Revelation 20:15, 'And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire' along with death and hell when they are destroyed on the day of final judgment.

Paradise: Varying degrees of goodness

QM 8-6

Hell: Varying degrees of badness

When they finally know the whole gospel story, when they are capable of making a choice, they will be called upon to do so.

*Those who still choose evil, in spite of their knowledge of Christ, will become blasphemers who will be cast into the **lake of fire**.*

*Those who choose Christ will be fit to go to **heaven**.*

Salvation and eternal life are gifts to us

QM 8-7

by the grace of God. Our works don't save us. But what we do with those gifts, how we use them, will determine what is accomplished.

Good works are essential for entrance into God's presence. The degree of understanding and obedience that we have for God's laws in this life rewards us now in present happiness and satisfaction, and they will reward us similarly in the afterlife, too.

Three Degrees of Glory in Heaven

Celestial (sun glory),
Terrestrial (moon glory),
Telestial (star glory)

QM 9-1

II Corinthians 12:2, 'I knew a man in Christ...such an one caught up to the third heaven.'

I Corinthians 15:41-42, 'There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.'

D&C 76, *modern day revelation*

Celestial Kingdom (sun)

QM 9-2

D&C 76, 'They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial...that...they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands of him who is ordained...unto that power; and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father shed forth upon all those who are just and true; ...they are they...who have received of his fullness, and of his glory...these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever.'

Terrestrial Kingdom (moon)

QM 9-3

D&C 76, 'The people whose works entitle them to this reward are to receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father. In this kingdom will be those who died without law; and also they who are spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it; these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men; these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.'

Telestial Kingdom (stars)

QM 9-4

These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit...these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. They are the people who on earth professed to follow great religious leaders but who didn't really receive the fullness of the gospel and live up to it. Perhaps they are the ones Christ meant when he said, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter in the kingdom of heaven [celestial kingdom]...many will say to me...Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? ...and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' D&C 76, 'These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne...for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works...and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they can not come.'

Restoration Beliefs: Stewardship, Agency & Zion

See *Zion's Path* summary page

QM 10-1

D&C 6, 'seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.'

D&C 64, 'Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.'

Matthew 6:33, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

Matthew, 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matthew, 'The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.'

QM 10-2

'If a man love me, he will keep my words...A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...I give unto you to be the salt of the earth...I give unto you to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill...Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel.'

Alma, 'If you have no more than a desire to believe, then let this desire work in you.'