



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
One God, Amen.

Cults: Mormons

History

- Founded by Joseph Smith Jr. who was born in Vermont in 1805.
- His family moved to Palmyra, NY in 1816.
- He liked to go treasure hunting.
- At his time there was a lot of social turmoil and religious fighting.
- He claimed to have a vision of God and that an angel appeared to him to point him to the “golden plates” which he later ‘translated’ to the book of Mormon.
- He claimed the book was written in ‘reformed Egyptian’.
 - This claim has been refuted as such a language doesn’t exist.
 - The golden plates were never recovered to prove this theory.
 - Scholars of the time looked at some of the ‘reformed Egyptian’ characters and said they were a mishmash of different altered characters with no Egyptian at all.
 - There is no evidence of use of Egyptian one way or another in America.
- He ‘translated’ this book using the Urim and Thummim (ancient Jewish stones in Aaron’s breastplate) which he recreated.
- The translated book is actually very close to an unpublished fictional book by Solomon Spaulding called “The Manuscript Found” and other parts are crudely reworded sections of the King James Bible.
- The book is a collection of fifteen books that talk of the fantastical story of two ancient tribes that immigrated to America: the Jaredites which were wiped away in a great civil war, and the Lehites who were apparently preached the gospel directly from Jesus but due to another civil war between the cursed sons of Laman and the Nephites all the good people were destroyed.
 - No archeological or anthropological evidence has been found to substantiate any of these stories.
- Smith managed to convince a simple farmer, Matthew Harris, into mortgaging his land to publish his book.
- Smith also used his own ‘preaching’ to come up with new doctrine such as that of polygamy in 1843.
- In an effort to crush opposition Smith and his followers destroyed a newspaper plant that had published several articles.
- Because of this he was thrown in jail where the crowds broke into the prison and killed him.

Beliefs

- Mormons believe that God is just a human that became a God and so they believe that he flesh and bones.
- They say his is one of many Gods who populate the heavens.
- Furthermore they claim that all humans can become Gods in like manner.
- They believe that all human spirits were born of God from the beginning of time and that Adam and Eve were charged with creating bodies for all these spirits.
- They believe that people can be “Christians” after death through their relatives.
- They believe that only those who knowingly rejected Christ will spend an eternity in perdition with Satan all the others will go to one of three levels of heaven:
 - Telestial – For those who lived sinful lives.
 - Terrestrial – Those who became “Christians” after death.
 - Celestial – Christians who lived righteous lives can become God’s themselves.
- They have multiple levels of “priesthood” although they don’t claim it as such.
 - Three levels in the Aaronic priesthood.
 - Five levels in the priesthood of Melchizedek.
- They practice all their rites in complete secrecy.
- They exalt matter over spirit as they believe that matter is eternal.

Final Word

It is important to be thankful to God who has allowed us to be members of His holy church and to understand the untainted truth as He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles. We should thank God for the opportunity to know His true commandments and to be in communion with Him. We ask God to preserve us in the Orthodox faith until the last breath and to preserve the peace and longevity of our Coptic Orthodox Church and to preserve our pope H.H. Pope Shenouda III on the See of St. Mark. To our Lord be the glory forever and ever Amen.