

## Biblical Prophecy

Joseph Smith claimed that the Lord told him the Latter-day saints would build a temple in Zion (Jackson County, Missouri) during his generation.



Zion would never be removed from its place. "This generation shall not all pass away until a house shall be built unto the Lord...upon the consecrated spot as I have appointed" [Doctrine and Covenants, 84:5, 31, September 1832]. "Surely Zion is the city of our God,

and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of place, for God is there, and the hand of the Lord is there." [Doctrine and Covenants, 97:19, August 1833].

These two prophecies failed since a temple was never built at the "appointed" place. Moreover, two weeks before Joseph gave the prophecy that Zion would not be "moved out of her place" the Mormons were unceremoniously run out of Zion. Their printing presses were destroyed, and some of their leaders were tarred and feathered! Joseph was in Kirtland Ohio at that time and thus was ignorant of the situation in Jackson County, Missouri, when he uttered his prophecy.

A prophecy that Jesus would return within 56 years. President Smith addressing the trials and sufferings of Mormons as temporary: "... and said God had not designed all this for nothing, but He had it in remembrance yet; and it was the will of God that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, for the coming of the Lord, which was nigh--even fifty-six years should wind up the scene." (*History of the Church*, vol. 2, p. 189). Jesus did not return within fifty-six years when 1891 arrived.



I really appreciate you taking the time to read through this pamphlet and consider the primary question that must be answered by every human being, "What am I going to do with Jesus?"

At the end of the day, it's not about church membership or denominational affiliation; how we were water baptized and if we were a good person. As important as good works are, they cannot save us from our sins—only the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ has provided for us an eternal redemption and salvation.

Consider church history when Martin Luther made a powerful statement on April 16, 1521 in Worms Germany in defense of his stance that we are justified by faith in Jesus alone and not by the traditions of men or any human organization. For Scripture alone is our final authority for all matters that pertain to life and conduct:

*"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."*

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

2 Corinthians 13:5

## Mormonism

# The Celestial Kingdom



Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:3, 6-7

Dear friend, thank you so much for taking the time to read through this simple pamphlet that attempts to explore answers to essential truths that are relevant to all Christians. I'm



sure we are in agreement that the meaning of life for every human being is to be reconciled to God and set free from sin that separates us from Him.

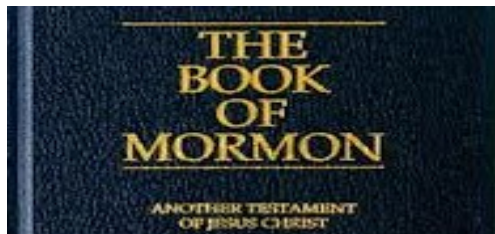
Jesus had made a profound statement about entering into the Kingdom of God:

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”  
John 3:3

What differentiates Christianity with all the other philosophical religions of the world is the spiritual regeneration of the human spirit. Jesus went on to say in verse 6, “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*” According to Jesus, a spiritual new birth is the prerequisite to entering God’s Kingdom. With that being said,

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” John 3:7

are you born again by the Spirit? If we are truly proclaiming God’s Kingdom, then we must be proclaiming a gospel that centers on being born again through faith in Jesus Christ.



## Faith vs. Works

Again, what is it that differentiates Christianity from all the other religions of the world? Other religions do acknowledge human disobedience or sin. The big difference is their response to sin that separates us from a holy God. Fundamentally, world religions are works based systems that attempt to earn or deserve God’s favor and salvation. As it was 2,000 years ago, so it is today when folks ask:

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.  
John 6:28-29

What troubles me is the LDS claim they are the

restoration of the true church established by Jesus; not Protestant or Catholic, but claims, rather to be the only true church. “If it had not been for Joseph Smith



and the restoration, there would be no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” [Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 670). “No salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth then this knowledge is of 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” [Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, pp. 189-190]. But what does the Bible say:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-9

Here we see a classic case of getting the cart before the horse; don’t get me wrong, good works are important to God but we need to get them in the proper order– they are not a prerequisite to salvation. The Bible clearly teaches that faith alone in Jesus is what saves us. Then after being born again by the Spirit, by God’s grace we are empowered unto good works for His glory.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.  
Romans 10:9-10

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

Sin is like spiritual crime, it cannot be undone by our own by good works, anymore than a convict trying to undo his crime by being a good person– he is already guilty and condemned. If we do the crime we have to do the time. The penalty of sin is



eternal death; to be forever separated from God. Unless of course we are pardoned of our sin as a free gift of God’s grace apart from works of earning or deserving; we just come as we are, a lost sinner in need of a Savior– Jesus our Lord. Do you know for sure that you are saved and received the gift of eternal life? The Bible teaches that we can know for sure in 1 John 5:13:

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.