

Catholic church was established. This means that the authority invested in the Apostles by Jesus is no longer in effect, and thus true Christianity disappeared with them.

This is completely contrary to the teachings of the Old and New Testament. There we are taught:

- 1) The Word of Christ would not disappear (Psalm 103:15, 1 Pet. 1:24-25, 2 John 2)
- 2) The church of Christ would not disappear (Matthew 16:18)
- 3) The Kingdom of Christ would not fail (Isa. 9:6-7;
- 4) There will be no further revelations from God (Jude 3)
- 5) Everything we need to be saved is in the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3)

The Old Testament is full of prophecy about the coming of the New Testament (Deut. 18:13, Isa. 53, Jer. 31, etc). Yet NOT ONCE does the New Testament contain a prophecy of the coming of Joseph Smith or his restoration. In fact, the only prophecies of what was to come was of false Christs, false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1-3, 2 Pet. 2:1, etc) who would introduce “another Gospel” supposedly given by angels (Gal. 1:6-8).

The authority of the church is placed in twelve apostles, a president, and the priesthood of Aaron and the priesthood of Melchizedek. The New Testament established that there is only one head (president) of the church, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22); however, we are warned that men would come to attempt to take over that role (2 Thes. 2:3-4). The apostles were such because they had walked with Christ

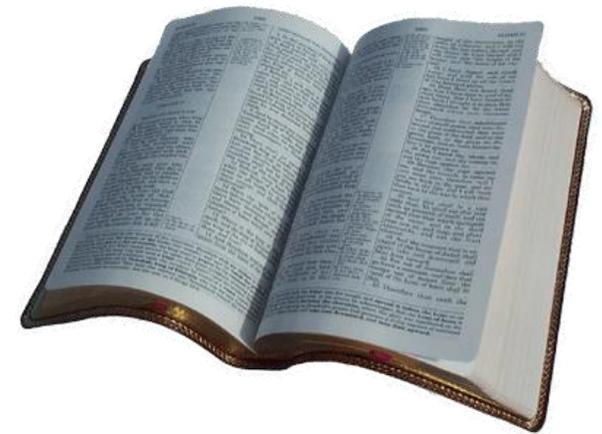
from His baptism to His resurrection (Acts 1:22); however, we are warned that false apostles would arise (Rev. 2:2). The priesthood of Aaron was limited to him and his sons (Ex. 27:21). More specifically, we are told that the qualifications of the priesthood of Melchizedek was limited to one man who had the power of an unending life and an oath from God (Heb. 7:16,21). We are told in the New Testament that ONLY JESUS is qualified for this (Heb. 8:1).

THE DIVINITY PROBLEM

In Scripture, we are told that God is One; we are also told that the Father is God, that Jesus is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God. This concept is called “Godhead” in the Bible, and we commonly call it “Trinity”. We find that God is Spirit (John 4:24), not flesh and blood. He is not a man (Num. 23:19), and all that exists was created by Him (Gen. 1). Yet all of these rather basic concepts of the bible are not found in Mormonism, which teach that God was once a man, has laws He must subject Himself to, has wives, was created, has flesh and blood, and that Jesus is a God of His own.

There are many, many more issues that could be pointed to as to the division of the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of Joseph Smith. Even one point should be enough for one who has a love of the truth to search the Scriptures to see if these things are so. Look for yourself!

Understanding the Mormon Church



The Mormon church is the common name for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the largest of the Mormon denominations (there are actually 100 separate Mormon denominations) which trace their founding to the 19th century and Joseph Smith. The first LDS church was established by Joseph Smith, who claimed that he had been visited by an angel, and that another testament from God had been given to him. He was told that God desired for him to be the new priest, apostle and prophet of a reestablished church of Christ.

Many know that the Mormon church has a unique collection of documents which they believe were translated by Joseph Smith from golden plates revealed to him by the visiting angel; the plates were then taken back by the angel, so no original text exists. Later on, Joseph Smith claims to have had other revelations from God. Ultimately, he constructed three books that currently form the Mormon doctrine: The Book of Mormon, The Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price (we will simply refer to these as the Book(s) of Mormon). In regards to the Bible, the official position of the church is this: *"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."* It is evident that the book of Mormon is more highly esteemed for accuracy than the Bible, which they claim is subject to translation errors.

There are a number of problems with the Mormon church in regards to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles. There is also a major issue with the conflict between the Book(s) of Mormon and the Bible.

THE HISTORICAL PROBLEM

What many Mormons are unaware of is that Joseph Smith "dictated" two versions of the book of Mormon, the first being destroyed or lost. There are countless problems with Smith's story and the legitimacy of the Book of Mormon. To begin with, his story of the vision of Moroni and the golden plates was never verified, neither by witnesses nor miracles. While the preface of all Book of Mormon editions have two testimonials signed by eleven men who claimed to have seen the plates, most of these men later turned against Smith and left the LDS church. In fact, some later admitted they had seen the plates only with their "spiritual eyes" and had not actually seen them. Ironically, the accuracy of Smith's translation could not, and cannot, be analyzed since Moroni took the golden plates to heaven when he had completed the work, so Smith explained.

However, there is one existing ancient text from which Joseph Smith translated "The Book of Abraham" (part of "The Pearl of Great Price"). It was an Egyptian papyrus that Smith purchased from a travelling mummy exhibit. Smith said the papyri describe Abraham's early life, his travels to Canaan and Egypt, and his vision of the cosmos and its creation. The papyrus was thought to be lost, but in 1966 several fragments of the papyri were found in the

archives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. When examined, they were clearly identified as Egyptian funerary texts. Because of this enormous error, the LDS church has acknowledged that *"None of the characters on the papyrus fragments mentioned Abraham's name or any of the events recorded in the book of Abraham. Mormon and non-Mormon Egyptologists agree that the characters on the fragments do not match the translation given in the book of Abraham"*. It is not seen as inspired, but none consider Joseph Smith's credibility impugned.

The events in the Book of Mormon supposedly covered a thousand years of ancient American history from about 600 BC until about AD 400 (with one section dated about 2000 years earlier). However, researchers (including some from the Mormon church) have demonstrated that its historicity is completely unsubstantiated. It contains numerous internal problems and anachronisms. For example, it reports the presence of horses and other animals not found in the Americas in pre-Columbian times. Likewise, not one single piece of authentic archaeological evidence has ever been discovered to substantiate the events recorded in the Book of Mormon. Not one.

THE AUTHORITY PROBLEM

For 200 years, the Mormon church(es) have claimed to be the only true church on the face of the earth. The claim that through Joseph Smith God restored the true church of Christ and the true Gospel. They claim that the church was lost entirely and authoritatively when the (over)