

THE TRUE GOSPEL

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO MORMONISM

## Foreword

For nearly two centuries, Mormonism has presented itself as the “restored gospel,” claiming that Christianity fell into apostasy and needed a new prophet to restore truth. But the Bible tells a different story—one of a gospel already complete, a Savior already revealed, and a faith once for all delivered to the saints.

This book is not written in anger but in clarity.  
Not in hostility but in conviction.  
Not to shame, but to illuminate.

The purpose of this work is to compare the teachings of Mormonism with the teachings of the Bible and to examine the prophetic claims of Joseph Smith. When we do, a clear conclusion emerges: Mormonism is not Christianity, and Joseph Smith does not meet the biblical standard of a true prophet.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### The Foundation of Truth: What the Bible Says About Revelation

#### Chapter Introduction

Every belief system rises or falls on its foundation. Mormonism claims that Christianity collapsed into apostasy and needed restoration. But the Bible paints a radically different picture—one of a gospel already complete, a Savior already revealed, and a faith delivered once for all to the saints. This chapter lays the groundwork for evaluating Mormonism by examining what Scripture teaches about revelation, prophecy, and the unchanging nature of God.

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#### The Eternal Nature of God's Word

The Bible does not present God as a being who changes His mind, alters His nature, or revises His truth. Instead, Scripture repeatedly emphasizes that God's Word is eternal, fixed, and trustworthy. Psalm 119:89 declares, "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven." This is not the language of a God whose revelation collapses and requires restoration centuries later.

Mormonism begins with the premise that the church fell into total apostasy. But Jesus promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church. If God's Word is eternal and His church is preserved, the foundation of Mormonism is already in conflict with Scripture.

## The Finality of Christ's Revelation

Hebrews 1:1–2 is one of the most important passages for understanding revelation:

“God... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”

This means the ultimate revelation of God is not a prophet, a seer, or a new scripture—it is Jesus Christ Himself. The LDS Church teaches that prophets must continue to reveal new doctrine, new commandments, and new scripture. But the Bible teaches that Christ is the final and complete revelation of God.

If Christ is final, then Joseph Smith cannot be a necessary or legitimate prophet restoring lost truth.

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## The Warning Against New Gospels

Paul's warning in Galatians 1:8 is shockingly direct:

“Even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel... let him be accursed.”

Joseph Smith claimed an angel named Moroni delivered golden plates containing a new gospel. Paul warns us about this exact scenario. The Bible does not leave room for “another testament” or a restored gospel. It declares the gospel complete, unchangeable, and guarded by God Himself.

This raises a critical question:

If the Bible warns against new gospels, how can the Book of Mormon be accepted as scripture?

## The Biblical Test of a True Prophet

Deuteronomy 18 gives two clear tests:

1. A prophet's predictions must come true.

If even one prophecy fails, the prophet is false.

2. A prophet must not contradict previous revelation.

God does not contradict Himself.

Joseph Smith fails both tests. He made prophecies that did not come to pass and taught doctrines that contradict the Bible. This chapter will not yet detail those failures—that comes later—but it is essential to understand the biblical standard before evaluating Smith's claims.

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## Scripture's Warning About False Prophets

Jesus warned that false prophets would arise and deceive many. These individuals would claim divine authority, perform signs, and lead people astray. The LDS Church teaches that Joseph Smith restored the true church. But Jesus warned that false prophets would claim exactly that.

False prophets do not appear as villains. They appear as spiritual leaders, visionaries, and restorers of truth. This is why Scripture commands believers to test every spirit and examine every teaching.

## The Sufficiency of Scripture

One of the most important doctrines in Christianity is the sufficiency of Scripture. Second Timothy 3:16–17 teaches that Scripture is able to make the believer “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” If Scripture is sufficient, then no additional revelation is needed.

Mormonism teaches that the Bible is incomplete, corrupted, and unreliable without LDS prophets. But the Bible teaches the opposite: it is complete, trustworthy, and preserved by God.

If Scripture is sufficient, then Mormonism’s claim of restored revelation collapses.

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## The Preservation of the Gospel

The LDS Church teaches that the gospel was lost after the death of the apostles. But Jesus promised that His words would never pass away. Jude 3 says the faith was “once for all delivered to the saints.” Not temporarily delivered. Not partially delivered. Not delivered until it needed restoration.

Once for all.

This means the gospel did not disappear. It did not collapse. It did not require Joseph Smith to resurrect it. God preserved His truth through His Word and His church.

## The Role of the Holy Spirit in Guiding the Church

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide believers into all truth. The LDS narrative requires us to believe that the Holy Spirit failed—that the entire church fell into apostasy for nearly 1,800 years.

But Jesus promised the opposite.

The Spirit guides, preserves, convicts, and protects the church. The idea that the church vanished contradicts the very nature of God's promise to His people.

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## The Danger of Adding to Scripture

Revelation 22:18–19 warns against adding to God's Word. While this passage specifically refers to the book of Revelation, the principle applies broadly: God's revelation is not to be altered or expanded by human authority.

The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price all add doctrines, commandments, and revelations not found in Scripture. This is not restoration—it is addition.

And Scripture warns against it.

## Chapter Summary

Before we evaluate Mormonism, we must anchor ourselves in the truth of Scripture:

- God's Word is eternal and unchanging.
- Jesus Christ is the final revelation.
- The gospel is complete and cannot be replaced.
- False prophets will arise claiming divine authority.
- Scripture is sufficient and preserved.
- The church did not fall into apostasy.
- Adding new revelation contradicts God's warnings.

With this foundation established, we can now examine Joseph Smith's prophetic claims in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Joseph Smith: Examining the Claims of a Prophet

#### Chapter Introduction

Joseph Smith stands at the center of Mormonism. Without him, there is no Book of Mormon, no LDS Church, no priesthood restoration, and no claim of apostasy. Everything rises or falls on whether he was a true prophet of God.

This chapter examines Smith's claims through the lens of Scripture, history, and his own recorded words. The goal is not to attack the man, but to evaluate the prophetic authority he claimed.

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#### The Origins of Joseph Smith's Prophetic Claims

Joseph Smith grew up in a time of religious revivalism known as the "Burned-Over District" of New York. Many preachers, prophets, and visionaries claimed divine authority. Smith's family was deeply involved in folk magic, treasure-seeking, and the use of seer stones—practices that shaped his early worldview.

At age 14, Smith claimed to have a vision in which God told him all churches were corrupt. This claim directly contradicts Jesus' promise that His church would endure. If Smith's first revelation contradicts Christ's words, it raises immediate concerns about its authenticity.

## The First Vision: A Story That Changed Over Time

One of the most troubling aspects of Smith's prophetic claims is the evolution of his "First Vision."

There are multiple versions, each contradicting the others:

- In one version, he saw one divine being.
- In another, he saw two.
- In another, he saw angels, not the Father and Son.
- In early accounts, he never mentioned a vision at all.

A true prophet does not revise divine revelation.

If God appeared to someone, the details would not shift dramatically over time. The inconsistencies suggest the story developed gradually rather than being a single, authentic event.

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## The Golden Plates and the Method of Translation

Smith claimed an angel named Moroni delivered golden plates containing ancient scripture. But the method of translation raises serious questions.

Smith did not translate using the plates. Instead, he placed a seer stone in a hat, buried his face in it, and dictated words he claimed appeared supernaturally.

Witnesses described the process as magical, not scholarly or divine.

The Bible never presents prophets using occult tools to receive revelation.

This method aligns more closely with folk magic than biblical prophecy.

## Failed Prophecies: The Test of Deuteronomy 18

Deuteronomy 18 states that if a prophet makes predictions that do not come true, he is a false prophet. Joseph Smith made numerous prophecies that failed:

- He predicted Jesus would return before 1891.
- He prophesied that a temple would be built in Missouri within his generation.
- He declared that the Civil War would spread to all nations.
- He predicted that certain men would live to see major events—yet they died long before.

A single failed prophecy disqualifies a prophet. Smith had many.

## Doctrinal Contradictions With Scripture

Joseph Smith taught doctrines that directly contradict the Bible:

- God was once a man who progressed to godhood.
- Humans can become gods and rule their own worlds.
- Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers.
- The Father has a physical body of flesh and bone.
- There are many gods in the universe.

These teachings are not minor differences—they strike at the heart of Christian theology.

The Bible teaches:

- God is eternal and unchanging.
- There is only one God.
- Jesus is eternally divine, not created.
- Satan is a fallen angel, not Christ's sibling.

A prophet who contradicts Scripture cannot be from God.

## The Changing Nature of LDS Doctrine

A true prophet delivers consistent revelation.  
But Joseph Smith's teachings changed dramatically over time.

Early LDS doctrine taught:

- God is spirit.
- Salvation is by grace.
- The Book of Mormon is the “fullness of the gospel.”

Later LDS doctrine contradicted all three.

Smith introduced:

- Polygamy
- The plurality of gods
- The idea that God has a body
- The doctrine of exaltation
- New priesthood offices
- Temple rituals not found in the Book of Mormon

This pattern of evolving doctrine suggests human invention, not divine revelation.

## The Issue of Polygamy

Joseph Smith secretly practiced polygamy while publicly denying it.

Historical records show he married:

- Women already married to other men
- Teenage girls as young as 14
- Over 30 women in total

He claimed God commanded him to do so.

But Scripture teaches that church leaders must be “the husband of one wife.”

Smith’s actions contradict both biblical morality and his own public statements.

A prophet who deceives cannot be trusted.

## The Kirtland Banking Scandal

In 1837, Smith founded the Kirtland Safety Society, a bank that operated without a legal charter. He promised God would ensure its success. Instead, it collapsed within months, wiping out the savings of many early Mormons.

Smith fled the state to avoid arrest.

This event raises serious questions about his prophetic reliability.

If God truly directed the bank, why did it fail so catastrophically?

If Smith acted on his own authority, then he misled his followers.

Either scenario undermines his prophetic claims.

## The Martyrdom Narrative

The LDS Church often portrays Joseph Smith as a martyr. But historical records show he died in a gunfight after firing a weapon at his attackers.

This does not diminish the tragedy of his death, but it does challenge the narrative that he died “like a lamb to the slaughter.”

True biblical martyrs do not die in armed conflict. Smith’s death reflects the political and social turmoil surrounding his leadership, not the persecution of a true prophet.

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## Chapter Summary

Joseph Smith’s prophetic claims collapse under biblical and historical scrutiny:

- His visions changed over time.
- His translation methods were rooted in folk magic.
- His prophecies failed.
- His doctrines contradicted Scripture.
- His revelations evolved dramatically.
- His moral actions conflicted with biblical standards.
- His leadership produced scandal and division.

A prophet must be consistent, truthful, and aligned with Scripture.

Joseph Smith was none of these.

With this foundation laid, we now turn to the Book of Mormon itself—its origins, claims, and contradictions.

## CHAPTER THREE

### The Book of Mormon vs. The Bible

#### Chapter Introduction

The Book of Mormon is the cornerstone of Mormonism. Without it, Joseph Smith has no prophetic authority, the LDS Church has no restored gospel, and the claim of apostasy collapses.

This chapter examines the Book of Mormon through the lenses of archaeology, theology, history, and biblical revelation. The goal is not to demean those who cherish it, but to evaluate whether it stands as true scripture.

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#### The Claim of “Another Testament of Jesus Christ”

The LDS Church presents the Book of Mormon as “another testament of Jesus Christ,” equal in authority to the Bible. But Scripture warns against adding new revelation or new gospels.

The Bible teaches that the gospel was delivered once for all. The Book of Mormon claims to restore what was lost.

These two claims cannot both be true.

If the Bible is complete, the Book of Mormon is unnecessary. If the Book of Mormon is necessary, the Bible is insufficient. The two stand in theological opposition.

## The Absence of Archaeological Evidence

One of the most significant problems with the Book of Mormon is the complete lack of archaeological support. The Book of Mormon describes:

- Vast civilizations
- Large-scale wars
- Cities with millions of inhabitants
- Complex writing systems
- Horses, steel, chariots, and wheat in ancient America
- A Hebrew-based language
- Coins and monetary systems

Yet not a single confirmed artifact has ever been discovered.

By contrast, the Bible is supported by:

- Cities
- Inscriptions
- Coins
- Manuscripts
- Historical records
- Archaeological digs

The silence of archaeology regarding the Book of Mormon is deafening.

## Anachronisms in the Book of Mormon

Anachronisms are historical impossibilities—things appearing in a time period where they do not belong.

The Book of Mormon contains many:

- Horses (not in the Americas until Europeans arrived)
- Steel (not produced in ancient America)
- Chariots (no evidence in pre-Columbian America)
- Wheat and barley (not native to the Americas)
- Elephants (extinct long before Book of Mormon times)
- Hebrew and Egyptian writing systems (no trace in the Americas)

These anachronisms reveal that the Book of Mormon reflects 19th-century assumptions, not ancient history.

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## Plagiarism From the King James Bible

Large sections of the Book of Mormon copy the King James Bible word-for-word, including:

- Translation errors
- Archaic English phrases
- Italicized words added by KJV translators

If the Book of Mormon was written on golden plates in ancient America, why does it contain:

- 17th-century English
- KJV translation mistakes
- Entire chapters from Isaiah copied verbatim

This suggests the Book of Mormon was produced using the KJV Bible, not ancient records.

### Doctrinal Contradictions Within the Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon contradicts later LDS doctrine.  
For example:

The Book of Mormon teaches:

- God is spirit (Alma 18:26–28)
- Salvation is by grace (2 Nephi 25:23; Mosiah 3:18)
- There is only one God (2 Nephi 31:21)

Later LDS doctrine teaches:

- God has a physical body
- Salvation requires temple ordinances
- There are many gods

If the Book of Mormon is the “fullness of the gospel,” why does LDS doctrine contradict it?

## Changes to the Book of Mormon Over Time

The LDS Church claims the Book of Mormon is “the most correct book on earth.”

Yet thousands of changes have been made since 1830, including:

- Grammar corrections
- Doctrinal adjustments
- Clarifications of controversial passages
- Removal of racist language
- Changes to align with later LDS theology

Scripture does not evolve.

If the Book of Mormon were truly inspired, why would it require so many revisions?

## The Problem of the “Reformed Egyptian” Language

Joseph Smith claimed the Book of Mormon was written in “Reformed Egyptian.”

No such language has ever been discovered.

No linguist recognizes it.

No inscription exists.

No ancient culture used it.

The idea of Hebrew prophets writing in Egyptian contradicts both history and Scripture.

The Bible shows Hebrew prophets writing in Hebrew, not Egyptian.

The absence of linguistic evidence undermines the Book of Mormon’s authenticity.

## The Witnesses: A Closer Look

The LDS Church often points to the “Three Witnesses” and “Eight Witnesses” as proof of the Book of Mormon’s truth. But historical records reveal:

- Many witnesses later left the LDS Church
- Some recanted their testimonies
- Others claimed they saw the plates only in visions
- Several were involved in treasure-seeking and occult practices
- Some were related to Joseph Smith

The credibility of the witnesses is far weaker than LDS narratives suggest.

## The Bible’s Warning Against Adding Scripture

Revelation 22:18–19 warns against adding to God’s Word. While this passage refers specifically to Revelation, the principle applies broadly: God’s revelation is complete.

## The Book of Mormon:

- Adds new scripture
- Introduces new doctrines
- Presents a new gospel
- Claims new prophets
- Expands the nature of God
- Alters the identity of Jesus

This is not restoration—it is addition. And Scripture warns against it.

## Chapter Summary

The Book of Mormon fails the tests of:

- Archaeology
- History
- Linguistics
- Theology
- Internal consistency
- Biblical revelation

It contains anachronisms, plagiarized text, doctrinal contradictions, and historical impossibilities.

It does not align with Scripture, and it does not stand as divine revelation.

With the Book of Mormon examined, we now turn to the heart of the matter:

the LDS gospel itself—and how it differs from the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### The LDS Gospel vs. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

#### Chapter Introduction

Every religion has a message of salvation. Mormonism teaches a “plan of salvation” that includes pre-mortal existence, mortal probation, temple ordinances, priesthood authority, and eternal progression toward godhood. Christianity teaches a radically different message: salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. This chapter compares the LDS gospel with the biblical gospel to reveal how fundamentally different they are—not merely in emphasis, but in essence.

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#### Two Gospels, Two Foundations

The LDS Church teaches that the gospel was lost and restored through Joseph Smith.

The Bible teaches that the gospel was delivered once for all and preserved by God.

#### The LDS Gospel Includes:

- Pre-mortal spirit birth
- Eternal progression
- Temple ordinances
- Priesthood authority
- Works-based exaltation
- Becoming gods

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- Becoming gods

The Biblical Gospel Includes:

- The finished work of Christ
- Salvation by grace through faith
- The indwelling Holy Spirit
- The sufficiency of Scripture
- Eternal life as a gift
- Worship of the one true God

These are not small differences.

They represent two entirely different paths—one built on human effort, the other on divine grace.

The LDS Plan of Salvation Explained

The LDS plan of salvation begins long before birth.  
According to LDS doctrine:

1. Humans existed as spirit children of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother.
2. Jesus and Lucifer were spirit brothers.
3. Humans came to earth to gain bodies and prove themselves.
4. Salvation requires obedience to commandments, ordinances, and covenants.
5. The highest level of heaven (the Celestial Kingdom) is reserved for those who achieve exaltation.
6. Exalted individuals become gods and create worlds.

This system is complex, hierarchical, and dependent on human performance.

By contrast, Jesus said, “My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

## The Biblical Gospel: Grace, Not Exaltation

The Bible teaches that salvation is:

- A gift (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- Not of works
- Based on Christ's righteousness
- Received by faith
- Secured by God's power

The LDS gospel teaches that salvation is:

- Conditional
- Earned through obedience
- Dependent on temple ordinances
- Maintained through personal righteousness
- Completed through exaltation

The biblical gospel is about God saving humanity.  
The LDS gospel is about humanity becoming gods.

These two messages cannot be reconciled.

### The Nature of God: One God or Many?

One of the most significant differences between Mormonism and Christianity is the nature of God.

LDS Doctrine Teaches:

- God the Father has a physical body.
- God was once a man who became exalted.
- There are countless gods in the universe.
- Humans can become gods.

The Bible Teaches:

- God is eternal and unchanging.
- God is spirit.
- There is only one God.
- Humans will never become divine.

Isaiah 43:10 is decisive:

“Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me.”

This single verse dismantles the LDS doctrine of eternal progression.

The Nature of Jesus: Created Being or Eternal God?

Mormonism teaches that Jesus is:

- The first spirit child of Heavenly Father
- A created being
- The spirit brother of Lucifer
- A separate god from the Father

The Bible teaches that Jesus is:

- Eternal
- Uncreated
- Equal with the Father
- The Creator of all things

John 1:1 declares that Jesus is God.

Colossians 1:16 says He created all things.

Hebrews 13:8 says He never changes.

The LDS Jesus is not the Jesus of Scripture.

## The LDS Priesthood vs. The Priesthood of Christ

The LDS Church teaches that priesthood authority was lost and restored through Joseph Smith.

But the Bible teaches that Jesus is the final High Priest.

### LDS Priesthood Claims:

- Authority to baptize
- Authority to perform ordinances
- Authority to seal marriages for eternity
- Authority to act in God's name

### Biblical Teaching:

- Jesus is the eternal High Priest
- Believers are a royal priesthood
- No human mediators are needed
- Christ's sacrifice is once for all

Hebrews 7:24–25 states that Jesus holds His priesthood permanently.

If Christ's priesthood is eternal, no restoration is needed.

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## Temple Ordinances vs. the Finished Work of Christ

### The LDS Church requires:

- Baptism for the dead
- Endowment ceremonies
- Temple marriage
- Secret covenants
- Ritual clothing
- Worthiness interviews

These are presented as essential for exaltation.

But the Bible teaches:

- The veil is torn
- Christ fulfilled the temple
- No further sacrifices are needed
- Salvation is not earned through rituals

Temple ordinances imply that Christ's work was incomplete. But Jesus declared, "It is finished."

Works, Worthiness, and the Burden of Perfection

The LDS gospel places heavy burdens on its followers:

- Perfect obedience
- Tithing
- Temple attendance
- Missionary service
- Worthiness interviews
- Avoiding sin to maintain the Spirit
- Keeping covenants perfectly

Many former LDS members describe constant anxiety, guilt, and fear of failure.

The biblical gospel offers rest.

Jesus invites the weary to come to Him, not to a system of endless requirements.

## The LDS View of Eternity vs. the Biblical View

### LDS Eternity Includes:

- Three kingdoms of glory
- Eternal marriage
- Becoming gods
- Creating worlds
- Eternal families

### Biblical Eternity Includes:

- Worship of the one true God
- Eternal life with Christ
- A new heaven and new earth
- No marriage in the resurrection
- Joy in God's presence

Jesus explicitly said, "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage."

This contradicts the LDS doctrine of eternal marriage.

## Chapter Summary

The LDS gospel and the biblical gospel differ in every essential doctrine:

- The nature of God
- The identity of Jesus
- The means of salvation
- The purpose of life
- The requirements for eternity
- The role of works
- The meaning of grace

The LDS gospel is a system of progression toward godhood. The biblical gospel is the good news of salvation through Christ alone.

With these differences established, we now turn to the final chapter:  
the freedom found in Christ when leaving false prophets behind.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Freedom in Christ: Leaving False Prophets Behind

#### Chapter Introduction

Leaving a religious system—especially one as all-encompassing as Mormonism—is not merely an intellectual shift. It is emotional, spiritual, relational, and often painful. Yet countless former Latter-day Saints testify that when they encountered the biblical Jesus, they found a freedom they never knew existed.

This chapter explores the journey out of deception and into the grace, rest, and joy found only in Christ.

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#### The Weight of a Works-Based Religion

Mormonism is not simply a belief system; it is a lifestyle of constant striving.

Members are taught that their eternal destiny depends on:

- Obedience
- Worthiness
- Temple attendance
- Tithing
- Missionary service
- Avoiding sin
- Keeping covenants
- Maintaining the Spirit
- Upholding priesthood authority

This creates a cycle of pressure and fear.  
Many former LDS members describe feeling:

- Never good enough
- Never worthy enough
- Never obedient enough
- Never certain of God's love

The gospel of Jesus Christ offers something radically different.

The Burden Jesus Came to Lift

Jesus did not come to create a religion of ladders, levels, and requirements.

He came to set captives free.

He said:

- “Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
- “My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

The LDS gospel burdens.  
The biblical gospel liberates.

The LDS gospel demands perfection.  
The biblical gospel gives grace.

The LDS gospel requires endless effort.  
The biblical gospel rests in Christ's finished work.

## The Emotional Journey of Leaving Mormonism

Leaving Mormonism often feels like:

- Losing family
- Losing community
- Losing identity
- Losing purpose
- Losing certainty

Many former LDS members describe:

- Fear of disappointing loved ones
- Anxiety about eternal consequences
- Guilt for questioning authority
- Confusion about what to believe
- Loneliness after leaving the church

But they also describe something else—something beautiful.

They describe discovering:

- The real Jesus
- The real gospel
- The real freedom of grace
- The real presence of the Holy Spirit
- The real joy of salvation

Leaving Mormonism is not the end of faith.  
For many, it is the beginning.

## The Power of the True Gospel

The true gospel is not a system of progression.  
It is a declaration of victory.

It says:

- Christ paid it all
- Salvation is a gift
- God's love is unconditional
- Eternal life is secure
- Righteousness is imputed, not earned
- Grace is sufficient
- Jesus is enough

The LDS gospel says, "Do more."  
The biblical gospel says, "It is finished."

The LDS gospel says, "Become worthy."  
The biblical gospel says, "Christ makes you worthy."

The LDS gospel says, "Work toward godhood."  
The biblical gospel says, "Worship the one true God."

## Testimonies of Former Mormons

Across the world, former LDS members share similar stories:

“I finally felt forgiven.”

Many describe realizing for the first time that Christ’s sacrifice truly covers their sins.

“I discovered the Jesus of the Bible.”

They found a Savior who is eternal, divine, and sufficient —not a created being or exalted man.

“I felt the weight lift off my shoulders.”

The pressure to perform, obey, and earn salvation disappeared.

“I found a relationship, not a religion.”

They encountered the Holy Spirit in a personal, intimate way.

“I learned that God loves me unconditionally.”

Not based on worthiness.

Not based on temple attendance.

Not based on obedience.

But based on His grace.

These testimonies echo the heart of the gospel.

## The Call to Discernment

Scripture repeatedly warns believers to:

- Test every spirit
- Examine every teaching
- Reject false prophets
- Hold fast to truth
- Guard the gospel

Jesus warned that false prophets would arise.

Paul warned that wolves would enter the church.

John warned that many antichrists had already come.

The existence of false prophets does not mean God failed. It means God prepared His people to discern truth from deception.

Leaving Mormonism is not rebellion.

It is obedience to Christ.

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## Healing From Spiritual Manipulation

Many who leave Mormonism experience spiritual trauma.

They were taught:

- Questioning is sinful
- Doubt is dangerous
- Leaders speak for God
- Disagreement is rebellion
- Leaving means losing salvation

Healing requires:

- Time
- Scripture
- Community
- Prayer
- Counseling
- Grace

God is gentle with the wounded.  
He binds up the brokenhearted.  
He restores the soul.

Leaving a false prophet is not abandoning God.  
It is returning to Him.

The Joy of Knowing the True Jesus

The Jesus of the Bible is not:

- A created being
- A spirit brother of Lucifer
- A separate god
- A man who became divine

He is:

- Eternal
- Unchanging
- Almighty
- Creator
- Savior
- God in the flesh

When former LDS members encounter the biblical Jesus, they often describe:

- Awe
- Relief
- Worship
- Gratitude
- Peace

They discover a Savior who is powerful enough to save completely—not partially, not conditionally, not temporarily.

The Freedom of the New Covenant

The New Covenant is not a list of requirements. It is a relationship sealed by Christ's blood.

It offers:

- Forgiveness
- Adoption
- Eternal life
- The indwelling Spirit
- Direct access to God
- Freedom from law
- Freedom from fear

The LDS system keeps people in bondage.  
The New Covenant sets them free.

The LDS system says, “Try harder.”  
The New Covenant says, “Trust Jesus.”

The LDS system says, “Earn your place.”  
The New Covenant says, “You are already His.”

## Chapter Summary

Freedom in Christ is not theoretical—it is real, tangible, and life-changing.

This chapter has shown:

- The LDS gospel burdens; the biblical gospel liberates
- The LDS system demands perfection; Jesus gives grace
- Leaving Mormonism is painful but transformative
- Former LDS members find peace in the true gospel
- The biblical Jesus is greater than the LDS Jesus
- The New Covenant offers freedom, not bondage
- Christ alone saves, sustains, and secures His people

The journey out of Mormonism is not a journey away from God.

It is a journey toward Him.

And the destination is freedom—freedom found only in the true Jesus, the true gospel, and the true Word of God.

## Endnotes

1. Deuteronomy 18:20–22 — The biblical test of a true prophet.
2. Hebrews 1:1–2 — Christ as the final revelation.
3. Galatians 1:8 — Warning against new gospels.
4. Jude 3 — The faith delivered once for all.
5. Isaiah 43:10 — God declares there is no other God.
6. John 1:1–3 — Jesus as eternal God and Creator.
7. Colossians 1:16 — Christ created all things.
8. Revelation 22:18–19 — Warning against adding to Scripture.
9. Matthew 11:28–30 — Jesus offers rest, not religious burden.
10. Hebrews 7:24–25 — Christ's eternal priesthood.
11. Matthew 22:30 — No marriage in the resurrection.
12. Ephesians 2:8–9 — Salvation by grace through faith.
13. Psalm 119:89 — God's Word is eternal.
14. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 — Scripture is sufficient.
15. John 8:36 — Freedom in Christ.

## STUDY GUIDE

A chapter-by-chapter companion for small groups, churches, and personal reflection.

### SESSION 1 — Understanding Revelation (Chapter One)

#### Key Themes

- The finality of Christ
- The sufficiency of Scripture
- The danger of new gospels

#### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that God's Word is "settled in heaven"?
2. How does Hebrews 1:1–2 challenge the idea of restored revelation?
3. Why is the warning in Galatians 1:8 so important today?
4. How can believers discern false prophets?

#### Reflection Exercise

Write a prayer asking God to deepen your trust in His Word.

## SESSION 2 — Testing Joseph Smith (Chapter Two)

### Key Themes

- Prophetic authority
- Failed prophecies
- Contradictions with Scripture

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is consistency essential for a true prophet?
2. Which of Joseph Smith's failed prophecies stood out to you most?
3. How do Smith's teachings conflict with biblical doctrine?
4. Why is the evolution of LDS doctrine significant?

### Reflection Exercise

Compare Deuteronomy 18 with Joseph Smith's prophetic record.

## SESSION 3 — Evaluating the Book of Mormon (Chapter Three)

### Key Themes

- Archaeological silence
- Anachronisms
- KJV plagiarism
- Doctrinal inconsistencies

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is the lack of archaeological evidence so important?
2. What anachronisms did you find most revealing?
3. How does the Book of Mormon contradict later LDS doctrine?
4. Why does the Bible warn against adding scripture?

### Reflection Exercise

List three reasons the Bible is historically reliable.

## SESSION 4 — The True Gospel vs. The LDS Gospel (Chapter Four)

### Key Themes

- Grace vs. works
- The nature of God
- The identity of Jesus
- The meaning of salvation

### Discussion Questions

1. How does the LDS gospel differ from the biblical gospel?
2. Why is the nature of God foundational to salvation?
3. What does it mean that Jesus' work is "finished"?
4. How does the LDS view of eternity differ from Scripture?

### Reflection Exercise

Write a paragraph describing the biblical gospel in your own words.

## SESSION 5 — Freedom in Christ (Chapter Five)

### Key Themes

- Healing from religious bondage
- The rest Christ offers
- The joy of salvation
- The call to discernment

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do so many former LDS members describe feeling “free” after leaving?
2. How does Jesus lift burdens instead of adding them?
3. What does spiritual healing look like?
4. How can we lovingly help those trapped in false systems?

### Reflection Exercise

Meditate on Matthew 11:28–30 and journal what “rest” means to you.

## Dedication Page

To every seeker of truth who has wrestled with questions, doctrines, and voices claiming divine authority—may the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth.

And to those who have left the LDS Church in search of the biblical Jesus—this book is for you.

## Inspiration Page

This book was born from countless conversations with former Mormons, pastors, missionaries, and believers who longed for clarity. Many felt confused by the claims of Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, and LDS prophets. Others simply wanted to know whether Mormonism aligns with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The inspiration behind this work is simple:

Truth matters.

Doctrine matters.

Jesus matters.

And the Jesus of Scripture is not the Jesus of Mormonism.

## Author Notes

As a Christian writer, my goal is not to attack individuals but to examine teachings. Mormon missionaries are often sincere, kind, and devoted. But sincerity does not equal truth. This book evaluates Mormonism through the lens of Scripture, history, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that this work strengthens believers, equips the curious, and lovingly challenges those who have placed their trust in Joseph Smith.

THE TRUE GOSPEL:  
A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO MORMONISM

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