

What Do Mormons Teach About The Origin Of Man?

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Three of the questions that have perplexed the mind of mankind since the beginning of time are: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where will we go when this life is over? Our assignment is to deal with the first of these questions. Where did we come from? We will approach this question from three different facets.

The evolutionist will argue we accidentally came from a primeval soup of non-living matter. There is neither an example nor facts supporting this hypothesis (it is not a theory, because, by definition, a theory has to be based on scientific evidence). Countless scientists have tried, in vain, to produce life from non-living matter. Their best efforts, in the best possible circumstances, have been unable to do so. Yet, they expect the general populace to accept this unproven idea and even teach it as fact in our school systems. If scientists were able to produce life from non-living matter the only thing they would prove is that it takes intelligence (a creator) to produce life. The first of our kind was Adam, not atom! The first cousin to this hole-filled hypothesis is Theistic Evolution, which is just as ridiculous and genuinely insulting to all who believe that the Bible means what it says. Theistic evolution is nothing more than a weak attempt to placate the minds of some into thinking evolution is what God had planned all along.

The Bible relates the account of the beginning of all things in the opening chapter of the book of Genesis. The word Genesis literally means “beginning.” Genesis reveals the truth about the beginning of mankind. “What the Bible teaches about man is based on what the Bible teaches about God... To view man apart from his relationship to God is, at best, a hopelessly inadequate view of man.”¹ We will conclude this assignment with that account. Before we enter into that discussion we will take a brief look into what the Mormons teach about the origin of man.

It is not my intention to misrepresent or distort what Mormons teach on this subject. On the other hand, I do believe the average American has been spoon-fed a very different image than the facts of Mormonism will allow. Some of these facts might disturb and even enrage some who read this chapter. The wholesome, family oriented image often portrayed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (hereafter known as LDS) is far from where the facts lead when we begin to examine what the Mormons really believe. In their book titled *Fast Facts on False Teachers* Ed Decker and Ron Carlson give an interesting conspectus of what Mormons teach on how mankind came into existence:

Mormonism teaches that trillions of planets scattered throughout the cosmos are ruled by countless gods who once were human like us. They say that long ago on one of these planets, to an unidentified god and one of his goddess wives, a spirit child named Elohim was conceived. This spirit child was later born to human parents who gave him a physical body. Through obedience to Mormon teaching, death and resurrection, he proved himself worthy and was elevated to godhood as his father before him. Mormons believe that Elohim is their heavenly Father and that he lives with his many wives on a planet near a mysterious star named Kolob. Here the god of Mormonism and his wives, through endless celestial sex, produce billions of spirit children.²

According to Mormon teaching mankind is the sexual spawn of an intragalactic orgy between gods and goddesses. The same book goes on to reveal some additional troubling information.

With reference to what to do with all these offspring Decker and Carlson write:

To decide their destiny, the head of the Mormon gods called a great heavenly council meeting. Both of Elohim's eldest sons were there. Lucifer and his brother Jesus. A plan

was presented to build planet earth, where the spirit children would be sent to take on mortal bodies and learn good from evil. Lucifer stood and made his bid for becoming a savior of this new world. Wanting the glory for himself, he planned to force everyone to become gods. Opposing the idea, the Mormon Jesus suggested giving man his freedom of choice, as on other planets. The vote that followed approved the proposal of the Mormon Jesus, who would become savior of the planet Earth. Enraged, Lucifer cunningly convinced the one-third of the spirits destined for Earth to fight with him in revolt. Thus Lucifer became the devil and his followers the demons. Sent to this world in spirit form, they would forever be denied bodies of flesh and bone. Those who remained neutral in the battle were cursed to be born with black skin. This is the Mormon explanation for the Negro race. The spirits that fought most valiantly against Lucifer would be born into Mormon families on planet Earth. These would be the light-skinned people, or “white and delightsome,” as *The Book of Mormon* describes.³

From 1849 to 1978 the LDS Church had a policy against ordaining black men to the priesthood, and forbidding black men and women from taking part in ceremonies in the LDS temple.

Associated with this policy were various statements by church leaders tying the policy to their view of scripture and opining that black men and women had inherited the “curse of Ham,” which is Biblically inaccurate because the curse was actually placed on Canaan, Ham’s youngest son (Genesis 9:20-27).

The information that Decker and Carlson recorded in their book is probably not a reference to the origin of the Negro race but a reference to the dark skin of the indigenous Americans (commonly and incorrectly referred to as “Indians.”) The quote is from 2 Nephi 30:6. In 1981, the LDS Church decided to change what Joseph Smith called “the most correct of any book on earth”⁴ by

reverting to the wording of the lone 1840 edition. The word "white" was replaced with the word "pure." The second LDS President Brigham Young stated in 1859 that Lamanite skin color was related to transgression:

"You may inquire of the intelligent of the world whether they can tell why the **aborigines of this country are dark, loathsome, ignorant, and sunken into the depths of degradation** ...When the Lord has a people, he makes covenants with them and gives unto them promises: then, if they transgress his law, change his ordinances, and break his covenants he has made with them, he will put a mark upon them, as in the case of the Lamanites and other portions of the house of Israel; but by-and-by they will become a **white and delightful** people" (*Journal of Discourses* 7:336, emphasis added , JB).⁵

Joseph Smith's claim that the Book of Mormon is "the most correct of any book on earth" suffers greatly when we learn that there have been 3,913 changes to the first edition.⁶ Joseph Smith even had Jesus being born in Jerusalem instead of Bethlehem (Alma 7:10).

With flippant disregard and incredulous departures from what simple scriptures teach concerning the origin of man on this earth the LDS attempt to set forth some astonishing ideas that appear to be based more in fantasy and fiction than fact:

Early Mormon prophets taught that Elohim and one of his goddess wives came to Earth as Adam and Eve to start the human race. Thousands of years later, Elohim, in human form once again journeyed to Earth from the star base Kolob, this time to have physical relations with the Virgin Mary in order to provide Jesus with a physical body. Mormon apostle Orson Hyde taught that after Jesus Christ grew to manhood he took at least three

wives: Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene. Through these wives the Mormon Jesus supposedly fathered a number of children before he was crucified. Mormon founder Joseph Smith is supposedly one of his descendants.⁷

This would mean, according to Mormon teaching, that the origin of man came about by the polygamy of a god with many goddess wives. Every recorded case of polygamy in the scriptures reveals family disharmony, disruption and heartache. Think of the problems in Abraham's life with Sarah and Hagar. Jacob's life had the same problems for the same reason, multiple wives. Hannah was severely provoked by her husband's other wife, Peninnah (1 Samuel 1:6-7). Polygamy is always viewed with negative connotation in scriptures, yet the LDS want us to believe it is how we came into existence. If the foundation is faulty the building is sure to crumble.

If evolution is wrong and Mormonism is wrong on the origin of man, what is right? Who is right? Can we know what is right? The answer is a resounding yes!

The Bible starts with "In the beginning."⁸ The Mormons want us to assume that those trillions of planets have always existed, without explanation. God knew we would have questions. He created us with intelligence. He gives us answers at the very beginning of His inspired message. The Bible plainly declares God created mankind at the beginning, on the sixth day of creation. "And God said; Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). That tells us of the origin of man but it does not give us the how. We must turn to Genesis 2:7 to

discover the how: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” You are not the spawn of interplanetary polygamy. You are a carefully thought out, perfectly formed human, suited for habitation of this earth. The word “form” from Genesis 2:7 carries the idea of a potter forming clay. It is the same Hebrew word used to describe what Aaron did when he “fashioned” the calf for the people to worship at the base of Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4).

Friends, we come from a humble beginning. We were created from dirt. Whenever we begin to think too highly of ourselves it would serve us well to remember where we came from. The wise man Solomon reminds us of our origin in Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” A little earlier in the same book Solomon recorded, “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again” (Ecclesiastes 3:20). The knowledge of our beginning should have a humbling effect on every intelligent being.

If there is one thing that God wants from all of His children it is humility. Conversely, one of the things that God hates is pride. In the list of things that Solomon recorded that God hates, pride is the very first one: “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:16-17). James, the Lord’s half-brother says, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10). Peter recorded that; “for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). It should make us wonder just how haughty we can afford to be, since we came from dirt. We are to honor and respect God, not think of ourselves as becoming gods.

How can the LDS explain how the Holy Ghost could guide the apostles of Jesus “into all truth” (John 16:13) in the early parts of the first century and then have to supplement that truth less than 200 years ago? How can they explain that the truth we have received was “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The word “once” in that verse means *one single time* (numerically or conclusively). The American Standard Version of 1901 and the New King James Version both have the word translated as “once for all delivered.” Yet, they teach we need something more: “Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written” (2 Nephi 29:10). The risen Christ plainly declares; “For 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” (Revelation 22:18).

How can they explain that God has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as many man’s or woman’s⁹ when Jesus taught that God is a spirit and not made of flesh and bones (Lk 24:39; John 4:24).

God gave the revelation as He wanted and never intended to require man to live by a revised revelation. God formed man from the dust of the earth on the sixth day of creation.

¹ James D. Bales, "The Living Message of Genesis," *The Living Message of the Old Testament*, Garland Elkins and Thomas Warren, eds, Jonesboro, Ar, National Christian Press, Inc, 1977, p 29.

² Ron Carlson and Ed Becker, *Fast Facts on False Teachers*, p 166

³ *Ibid*, p 167

⁴ JSHC 7 Vol 4 461, hubpage.com

⁵ *Journal of Discourses* 7 336

⁶ Jerald and Sandra Tanner, *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon* (Salt Lake City: Modern Microfilm Co.).

⁷ Carlson and Becker, p 168

⁸ All quotation will be taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

⁹ *Doctrine of Covenants* 130:22