

Mormon Doctrinal Revisionism?

On a visit to Canada earlier this year I came across an interesting short article in Kelowna's 'The Daily Courier' (28 February 2014). The article was headed 'No planets for Mormon faithful' and it read as follows –

'SALT LAKE CITY - The Mormon Church is pushing back against the notion that members of the faith are taught they'll get their own planet, a misconception popularized in pop culture most recently by the Broadway show 'The Book of Mormon'.

The newly-posted article affirms the faith's belief that humans can become like God in eternity, but explains that the "cartoonist image of people receiving their own planets" is not how the religion envisions it.

The 3500 word article is part of a series of recent online articles posted on the web site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that explain, expand or clarify on some of the more sensitive gospel topics.

Past articles have addressed the faith's past ban on black men in the lay clergy and the early history of polygamy.

An interesting and fuller newspaper article on this issue can also be viewed on

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/lifestyle/57597557-80/god-lds-mormon-says.html.csp>

In this newspaper article we read the following statement –

Jan Shipps, a retired American religion scholar, who describes herself as "the non-Mormon Mormon expert," says exaltation has not been the public-relations headache it once was for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, when "The God Makers" book and film painted Mormons as hungering to eternally rule a planet.

The helpful video referred to, 'The God Makers', has been 'on the go' since 1982 and, speaking from personal experience, has been widely used in Evangelical Christian circles to educate true believers about the false teachings of the cult of Mormonism.

It does seem rather strange that it is only now, in 2014, that Mormonism feels the need to 'clarify' its position on human potential 'Godhood'. It would appear that they were content previously not to go public in any great details on this issue during the 30+ years that the video was available. So why have they now decided to publicly address this issue?

Possibly there are 2 reasons. Firstly, now that a hit-musical, 'The Book of Mormon' has appeared on the scene and is obviously 'connecting' with a much wider spectrum of public religious opinion and views, they perhaps now feel under some pressure to address this issue. Then secondly, they have in recent years been engaging with so-called 'evangelicals' in what appears to be an attempt to find 'common Christian ground' and I have addressed this in my article located on -

[http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/current-concerns-2013/After ECT will there be an EMT.pdf](http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/current-concerns-2013/After_ECT_will_there_be_an_EMT.pdf)

So perhaps they realise that their teaching on **'human potential Godhood'** could be a stumbling block to any possible future 'ecumenical unity' with these so-called 'evangelicals' and to their aspiration to have Mormonism recognised as a bona-fide branch of orthodox biblical Christianity.

This video, **'The God Makers'** can be viewed on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVTtDg5Zfk> and the Mormon teaching on **'human potential Godhood'** and what has been referred to as the **"cartoonist image of people receiving their own planets"** can be seen by watching from 7.38 minutes until 18.48 minutes. Before addressing the main issue of possible **'Mormon Doctrinal Revisionism'** in the area of Mormons becoming gods and populating their own planets I want to comment on another issue mentioned in the Kelowna newspaper article when it said **'Past articles have addressed the faith's past ban on black men in the lay clergy'**.

In the helpful leaflet **'Mormonism: What you need to know'** - available by going to <http://www.christianbook.com/mormonism-what-you-need-to-know/decker/9781565075115/pd/5075110>

we read the following quotation cited under **'Point 11'** that comes under a section headed **Attaining "Godhood"**. The quote reads –

'The Mormon Church Teaches – The black race is a cursed people: "Not only was Cain called upon to suffer, but because of his wickedness, he became the father of an inferior race. A curse was placed upon him and that curse has been continued through his lineage and must do so while time endures. Millions of souls have come into this world cursed with a black skin and have been denied the privilege of Priesthood and the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel" (Joseph Fielding Smith 'The Way to perfection' p.102). [Although it became expedient for the Mormon Church to open the Priesthood to blacks in 1978, the alleged revelation did not change Mormon doctrine regarding the penalty of being black. This revelation also DIRECTLY CONTRADICTED established Mormon doctrine.]

Brigham Young wrote in his **'Journal of Discourse'** (Vol. 7 p 290) –

"Cain slew his brother... and the Lord put a mark upon him which is the flat nose and black skin".

Another Mormon 'apostle, Bruce McConkie wrote in **'Mormon Doctrine'** (1958: p 102)

"As a result of his rebellion, Cain was cursed with a dark skin; he became the father of the Negroes, and those spirits who are not worthy to receive the priesthood are born through his lineage". Later on page 477 Mr McConkie wrote **"Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty".**

When speaking on Mormonism I often refer to a book entitled '**Other Gospels**' and written by Paul B Smith (Pastor of 'The People's Church' in Toronto from 1959-1994). On pages 69-70, under a heading of '**The Mormons and Negroes**' Paul Smith wrote –

'Mormon theology puts Negroes and Indians in a class by themselves... Negroes cannot become priests and little, if any, missionary work is done among the Negro people in the African countries... it would appear that little is done to reach the Negro world. The fact that Negro men are not permitted to be priests becomes a serious point of discrimination when we remember that every male member twelve years of age and upwards is a priest, except in extremely rare circumstances... In a recent interview with Martin O'Malley, the President of the Canadian Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mr Lamont Toronto, was quoted as saying –

"Through revelation to Joseph Smith (founder of the church) it's been a policy since the beginning of our church that Negroes could not hold the priesthood 'til such time as the Lord gave our prophet a new revelation" (The Globe and Mail, Toronto, 24 June 1967, p 44)... In all probability, just as they gave in to the demands of the United States government in regard to polygamy, they will eventually have to give in to the pressure that must be coming from all sources in connection with the Negro. We may live to see a new Manifesto in the very near future.'

Those words of Paul Smith, written in 1970, were truly 'prophetic' for in the 9 June 1978 edition of '**Deseret News**' the following statement by the then Mormon President, **Spencer Kimball**, was published –

'We have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the upper room of the Temple supplicating the Lord for divine guidance... He has heard our prayers and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the church may receive the holy priesthood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy with his loved ones every blessing that flows therefrom, including the blessings of the temple. Accordingly all worthy male members of the church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color'.

I think it would be fair to comment that this was no genuine '**divine guidance**' or '**revelation**' but simply a '**doctrinal u-turn**' made by an organisation that was under extreme pressure to remove what was perceived to be a blatant discrimination against Negro people. This pressure would of course have been building since the Civil Rights campaign in America that was spearheaded by Martin Luther King in the 1960's.

What we can learn from this 'Negro affair' and also from the issue of 'Polygamy' is that the Mormon Church can, as the leaflet quoted earlier, '**Mormonism: What you need to know**', stated, be '**expedient**' with regard to amending or altering its doctrine if it improves and enhances the public's perception of it as a 'Christian Church'.

I want now to address the issue within Mormonism of '**human potential Godhood**'. The video '**The God Makers**' portrayed faithful married Mormons as aspiring to being '**exalted**' after they die and going on to rule and populate their own planets.

This long-held portrayal is now being refuted by Mormonism and is being expressed as and portrayed by them as simply being, as they put it in their own words that **“humans can become like God... The doctrine of humans’ eternal potential to become like their Heavenly Father is central to the gospel of Jesus Christ and inspires love, hope, and gratitude in the hearts of faithful Latter-day Saints”** – those quotes are taken from the actual article that can be viewed on <https://www.lds.org/topics/becoming-like-god?lang=eng&query=becoming+god#2>

What do we know about **‘their Heavenly Father’** that they hope **‘to become like’**?

Well it is important to understand that Mormons believe that their **‘Heavenly Father’** was once a mortal human being who eventually ‘progressed’ to becoming ‘a god’ and not simply ‘god-like’. Perhaps the life and progression of **‘Elohim’**, the **‘Heavenly Father’** that Mormons hope to become like, could be traced as follows –

His Parents

This link <http://www.mrm.org/sermon-in-the-grove> will take you to the transcript of sermon preached by **Joseph Smith** on 16 June 1844 and the important portion to note is this –

“If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And everything comes in this way. Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which is heavenly, Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it”.

Joseph Smith taught clearly that the Mormon **‘Heavenly Father’** (**‘Elohim’**) had a **‘father’** who also had a **‘father’** ad infinitum. Not only did **‘Elohim’** have a **‘father’** but of course he would also have had a **‘Heavenly Mother’** in the same way that Mormons today are taught they have a **‘Heavenly Mother’**. In his **‘Articles of Faith’** (1976: page 443) **James Talmage** wrote –

“We are expressly told that God is the father of Spirits and to apprehend the literalness of this solemn truth we must know that a Mother of Spirits is an existent personality”

The same author also wrote on page 9 of **‘The Philosophical Basis of Mormonism’** –

“We, the human family, literally the sons and daughters of Divine Parents, the literal progeny of God our Eternal father, and of our God Mother, are away from home for a season”.

Lines from a well-known Mormon hymn called **‘O My Father’** read as follows –

“In the heavens are parents single? No; the thought makes reason stare! Truth is reason, Truth eternal, Tells me I’ve a Mother there”

These last three quotes are taken from page 16 (1984 edition) of **'Mormon Claims Examined'** by former Mormon, **Marvin W Cowan** – his profile can be seen on <http://www.utahchristianpub.org/articles/>

So Mormonism has taught that **'Elohim'**, their **'Heavenly Father'** had **'PARENTS'**, a **'Father'** and a **'Mother'**, so how did **'Elohim'** progress to becoming a God himself? That brings me to my second heading-

His Probation

In an old leaflet called **'Do they really say that?'** (Published by 'Christ Is the Truth' of Mandal, Norway and written by O Benestad) it says on page 1 under a heading of **'Was God once a man?'** –

'In a sermon which Mormons consider "one of the greatest sermons ever delivered by mortal man" ('Mormon Doctrine': Bruce McConkie p42) Joseph smith declared "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see ... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on AN earth"'. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith pp 343-346).

Joseph Smith also taught **"You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves ... the same as all Gods have done before you ... namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one ... until you arrive at the station of God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before"** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith pp 346-347; See also 'Doctrines and Covenants 132:19-20)

Joseph Smith taught that his **'Heavenly Father'** once lived as a mortal man **'on AN earth'** and through this experience was able to eventually **'arrive at the station of God and ascend the throne of eternal power'**.

Do we discover any more information from **Joseph Smith** on how this period of **'probation'** on an earth unfolded? In a sermon he preached following the death of Elder King Follett (transcript available on <http://www.mrm.org/king-follett-discourse>) we read this –

"God himself the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible... The Scriptures inform us that Jesus said, "As the Father hath power in himself, even so hath the Son power"-- to do what? Why, what the Father did. The answer is obvious -- in a manner, to lay down his body and take it up again. Jesus, what are you going to do? To lay down my life, as my Father did, and take it up again. Do you believe it? If you do not believe it, you do not believe the Bible. The Scriptures say it, and I defy all the learning and wisdom and all the combined powers of earth and hell together to refute it. Here, then, is eternal life -- to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves"

Can we discern why **'Elohim'** had to spend a period of **'probation'** on an earth before he could become a God? Well we must remember that **'Elohim'** was a **'spirit-child'** of his own **'heavenly parents'**; so why did he come to **'an earth'** to live, die and be resurrected and then be enabled (**'exalted'**) to become a God?

In the book '**Gospel Principles**' (pages 11 & 12) Mormons today are told –

'Since we could not progress further in heaven (this is speaking of their supposed pre-existence as 'spirit children with Elohim – just as he had pre-existed as a 'spirit child' with his 'Heavenly Father and Mother') **our Heavenly Father called a Grand Council** (see 'Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith': pages 348, 349 & 365) **to present us his plan for our progression. We learned that if we followed his plan we would become like him. We would have a resurrected body; we would have all power in heaven and on earth; we would become heavenly parents and have spirit children just as he does** (Doctrine and Covenants 132: 19-20) **We learned that he would provide an earth for us where we would be tested ... We learned that if we obeyed his word we would be exalted and become like our heavenly parents'**.

I don't think it is at all unreasonable to believe that this '**plan**' that was supposedly put forward by '**Elohim**' would have been modelled on a plan that he himself had been presented with by his '**Heavenly Father**' and then followed on '**AN earth**' thus enabling him to eventually progress to becoming a 'God' himself. This then was the purpose of his time of '**PROBATION**' on '**AN earth**'.

My third heading follows on naturally from what we have just considered and is –

His Progression

From our first two sections ('**Parents**' and '**Probation**') we have learned that the Mormon '**Heavenly Father**' (**Elohim**) was the '**spirit child**' of unknown '**Heavenly Parents**' who decided to put him through a period of '**progression**' on '**AN earth**' (or as Joseph Smith put it in an earlier quotation I cited – "**by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one ... until you arrive at the station of God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before**". However, I am not personally aware of any Mormon teaching that sheds light on a number of puzzling issues (but of course am willing to be enlightened /corrected).

Joseph Smith in his sermon following the death of Elder King Follett stated that Jesus said that he was going '**To lay down my life, as my Father did, and take it up again**'. Well, we know from The Bible that Jesus was utterly sinless and so He would not have been subject to the penalty of 'sin' namely death. The Bible tells us that Christ "**became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**" (Philippians 2:8).

You and I as sinful human beings don't have to '**become obedient unto death**' – unless the Lord returns it will overtake us at some point, no matter how hard we try to 'disobey' the law of sin and death as set out in **Romans 6:23** "**For the wages of sin is death**". Christ on the other hand chose to graciously submit to a sacrificial death on the Cross because He was willing to be the Substitute and Saviour of those whose sins He was voluntarily dying for.

This raises a number of puzzling questions that need to be addressed. **Firstly**, why did the Mormon **'Heavenly Father' ('Elohim')** have to lay down his life as Joseph Smith stated? **Secondly**, on the **'earth'** that he lived on why was death present? **Thirdly**, if death was merely a 'vehicle' for enabling him to pass from a mortal phase on **'AN earth'** to becoming an 'immortal God' why has its purpose (now a penalty for sin) been changed on this earth? **Fourthly**, if **'Elohim'** was able to live sin-free on **'AN earth'** and so presumably 'pass the test' set by his **'Heavenly Parents'** why could he not simply have been changed to his exalted 'God-status' in 'the twinkling of an eye' rather than having to go through a really spurious death and resurrection process?

These puzzling questions are all the more pertinent in the light of what **Milton R Hunter** wrote – **'Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the father was once a Mortal Man who passed through a school of earth SIMILAR to that through which we are now passing ... Our Heavenly father... rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement'** ('Gospel Through the ages' page 104) Other helpful comments on **'Elohim'** and his **'Progression'** can be found in the article located on <http://www.cultwatch.com/mormon.html> where we read -

'The Mormon God is an exalted man³ called "Elohim" who lives on a planet near the star-base Kolob⁴. Elohim has a physical body⁵ and is limited in power, he cannot create matter. He is not omnipresent being limited to one place at a time⁶. He is not eternal like the Christian God since Elohim had a beginning⁷. The Mormon God is married, to the "Heavenly Mother"⁸.

3. Joseph Smith said, **"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!"** – Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, page 345. Also Mormon Apostle John Widtsoe said, **"God and man are of the same race, differing only in their degrees of advancement"** – Widtsoe, The Gospel Through the Ages, page 107.

4. In Mormon founder Joseph Smith's 1835 AD book the "Book of Abraham", **Kolob is mentioned (Abraham 3:2-3) to Abraham as the heavenly body nearest to the throne or residence of God.** Whether Kolob is a star-base or planet or star is a point of dispute amongst Mormon scholars. As an interesting aside, Kolob was the inspiration for the planet "Kobol" in the Battlestar Galactica science fiction series – Glen A. Larson the creator of the series was a Mormon.

5. Joseph Smith taught, **"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's"** – Doctrine and Covenants 130:22. Joseph Smith said, **"I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form..."** – Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, page 345. **"The Nature of God...we know that our bodies are like His body. His eternal spirit is housed in a tangible body of flesh and bones..."** – Gospel Principles, chapter 1.

6. **"Some would have us believe that God is present everywhere. It is not so"** – Mormon President and Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 6:345.

7. Joseph Smith's said, **"We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see"** – Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, page 345.

8. **"Our Heavenly Father and mother live in an exalted state because they achieved a celestial marriage."** – Achieving a Celestial Marriage, page 1. **"For as we have a Father in heaven, so also we have a Mother there, a glorified, exalted, ennobled Mother."** – Achieving a Celestial Marriage, page 129.

Finally in this section, another interesting article examining some of these (and other) issues can be found on <http://www.mrm.org/elohim-the-sinner> My fourth and final heading concerning the **'Heavenly Father'** that Mormons aspire to become like is this –

His Promise

In his book **'The Four Major Cults'** A A Hoekema writes on pages 60-61 –

'Mormons distinguish various degrees of salvation. The highest is sometimes called **eternal life** and sometimes **exaltation** ... Receiving **exaltation** means to become like God – or, in blunter, but more accurate language, to become a God. To become eligible for the highest degree of salvation, however, one must obey all the commandments of God:

"Very gladly would the Lord give to everyone eternal life, but since that blessing can only come on merit – through faithful performance of duty – only those who are worthy shall receive it... To be exalted one must keep the whole law... To receive the exaltation of the righteous, in other words, eternal life, the commandments of the Lord must be kept in all things'. ('Doctrines of Salvation': Volume 2; 5-6: Joseph Fielding Smith – 10th President of the LDS Church).

It has apparently never occurred to Mr Smith that no one can **'keep the commandments of the Lord in all things'**.

Based upon what Joseph Fielding Smith wrote here, that would appear to be a pretty worthless **'promise'** concerning **'exaltation'** and, as one who held the office of **President** of the Mormon Church, he would have been regarded as a **'special witness of Jesus Christ'** as you can read on <https://www.lds.org/church/leaders/first-presidency?lang=eng>

The promise of **'becoming Gods'** is clearly set out in **'Gospel Principles'**. Under a heading of **'What is Exaltation?'** We read (pp 289-290) –

'Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life that God lives. He lives in great glory. He is perfect. He possesses all knowledge and all wisdom. He is the father of spirit children. He is a creator. We can become Gods like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation. If we prove faithful and obedient to all the commandments of the Lord, we will live in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom of heaven. We will become exalted just like our Heavenly Father'.

Under the next heading of **'Blessings of Exaltation'** we then read this –

'Those who live the commandments of the Lord and receive eternal life (exaltation) in the celestial kingdom will receive special blessings...

(1) They will live eternally in the presence of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

(2) They will become Gods.

(3) They will have their righteous family members with them and will be able to have spirit children also. These spirit children will have the same relationship to them as we do to our Heavenly Father. They will be an eternal family.

This is quite a **'Promise'** that is set forth before faithful Mormons – that they can **'become Gods'**. But of course that **'Promise'** was made on another occasion that we read about in **Genesis 3:1-5**. Here we read of **"the serpent"** (Satan/The Devil) tempting Eve to disobey God by eating fruit from a certain tree and he makes this promise to her **"in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods"**. Satan promised Eve that by disobeying God and eating fruit from a certain tree she would enter an **'exalted'** state.

That **'Promise'** was a lie then and it is still a lie today for the Lord Jesus Christ said this of Satan in **John 8:44** **"there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it"**.

To conclude this section, this **'Promise'** again throws up a puzzling question. If **'exalted'** Mormons are going to live **'eternally in the presence of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ'** and are there going to procreate **'spirit children'** what does the future hold for these **'spirit children'**?

Please keep in mind that **'Heavenly Father'** and **'Heavenly Mother'** of Mormons are themselves still continuing to procreate **'spirit children'** who are then being sent here to **'planet earth'** to inhabit mortal bodies to give them the chance of being **'exalted'** and **'becoming Gods'**.

Are we to believe that the other, additional **'spirit children'**, supposedly now also being born to **'exalted'** Mormons in the presence of **'Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ'**, are just going to remain as **'spirit children'** and not be given a chance somewhere to **'progress'** to becoming fully-fledged **'Gods'** just as **Elohim** gave that chance to his **'spirit children'** on planet earth and just as **Elohim** himself was given that chance on **'AN earth'** by his **'Heavenly Parents'**?

That scenario just doesn't appear credible and hence the long-held and understood view that the **'spirit children'** of exalted Mormons would also live on another earth-like planet ruled by their exalted **'Heavenly Parents'**. This is the view that is now being officially disputed.

A VERY helpful article addressing this issue has been written and can be viewed on <http://www.mrm.org/spirit-children-and-planets> The section that you will find most revealing and helpful is headed **'What have Mormon leaders and authors said?'** Let me just whet your appetite with these two quotes from amongst the many that are cited –

"We educate ourselves in the secular field and in the spiritual field so that we may one day create worlds, people and govern them." (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 386).

"When we escape from this earth, (do) we suppose we are going to heaven? Do you suppose you are going to the earth that Adam came from? that Elohim came from? where Jehovah (Jesus) the Lord came from? No. When you have learned to become obedient to the Father that dwells upon this earth, to the Father and God of this earth, and obedient to the messengers He sends---when you have done all that, remember you are not going to leave this earth. You will never leave it **until you become qualified, and capable, and capacitated to become a father of an earth yourselves.**" - Heber C. Kimball, *Journal of Discourses* 1:356

I entitled this article in the form of a question - '**Mormon Doctrinal Revisionism**'? I hope from what I have written that it will be clear to all what the answer to that question is. I hope also that it might represent both a challenge and an opportunity to any Mormons who may read it to seriously consider their own eternal future in the light of its contents.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries' – 28 June 2014

APPENDIX

Earlier in this article I mentioned the 'changing views' in times past by the Mormon Church on the subject of those born with black skin. In recent times an excellent article has been written by Robert Bowman Jnr. on a statement issued last December by the LDS and it can be accessed on

<http://mit.irr.org/race-and-priesthood-analysis-of-new-mormon-statement>

**The conclusions drawn by Mr Bowman are really quite 'dynamite'
– Mr Bowman writes**

- Evidently the "**living prophet**" can lead the Church astray, contrary to the claim made by President Wilford Woodruff in Official Declaration 1. The ten presidents of the LDS Church from Brigham Young to Harold B. Lee (1847-1973) all led the Church to view blacks as inferior persons who had proven themselves in the preexistence to be unworthy of receiving the priesthood. The Church's "policy" of excluding blacks from the priesthood was a failure of leadership, leading the Church in the wrong direction for more than a century.
- Evidently the **Mormon prophet** cannot reliably receive revelations from God, since supposedly President David O. McKay sought a revelation from God to rescind the exclusion of blacks from the priesthood but heard nothing. This is difficult to explain away since, as detailed above, the LDS Church now admits that the exclusion was based on false beliefs about black people. Presumably, then, God would not have wanted the LDS Church to continue denying the priesthood to black men. If God wanted the exclusion ended, and if his prophet wanted to end it, where did the communication between them break down? It is hard not to conclude that McKay, however sincere a man he may have been, simply was not a genuine prophet of God.

- Evidently the **Mormon scriptures** teach false doctrines, since the doctrines of the Book of Mormon, the Book of Moses, and the Book of Abraham pertaining to race have now been repudiated as “theories,” man-made beliefs to be rejected. Moreover, the authenticity of these books has now been called into question by the new Mormon statement on race and the priesthood, since it acknowledges that those doctrines, especially the “curse of Cain” doctrine, originated as a modern justification for white racism. Since the **Mormon scriptures** supposedly translated from ancient texts contain these doctrines, one must regard this fact as strong evidence against their authenticity.
- Evidently **Joseph Smith** was not the seer and revelator he claimed to be, since the texts he claimed to translate from ancient scriptures were in fact laced with modern, white racist myths.