

## **Book Review - Answers to Gospel Questions - Volume 4**

"No one is better qualified to answer gospel questions than President Smith ... Answers to Gospel Questions ... deserves wide reading by all members of the Church who wish to receive final answers to their questions" (cover, volume 1).

"The purpose of these volumes of Answers is to help members of the Church to know and walk in the light of truth" (forward, volume 5).

Here are some highlights. Comments and questions will be posed occasionally.

### Introduction

- x - human nature has not changed since the day that men were first born into this mortal world. Enticements of a fallen world, weaknesses of the flesh. This is the last dispensation of all time.
- 3 - ordinances performed for the dead in temples.
- 4 - honourable men who rejected the message of salvation ... later in the world of spirits repented.
- 7 - all the prophets had the Melchizedek Priesthood and were ordained by God himself (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 180-181) [ordained how and where?].
- 8 - Jesus, Moses, and Elias gave the keys to Peter, James, and John on the mount (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 158) [this is incorrect].
- 9 - Elias lived in the days of Abraham. Elijah came to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple. All the prophets from Adam to Peter/James/John came with their keys and restored them.
- 10 - the great object [purpose] of this mortal life is that the spirits of men may obtain tabernacles of flesh and bones. Without these tabernacles the spirits of men could not rise to exaltation. It was for this purpose that Adam and Eve were placed upon the earth and given the commandment to multiply [in LDS theology Adam and Eve were impotent when they were created. They were able to procreate only when they disobeyed God's commandment].
- 11 - worship of many imaginary gods.

12 - we may well believe that the Lord did not permit the more progressive and more worthy spirits to come to the families of the ungodly and the less progressive peoples of the earth. It was essential that the more progressive and intelligent spirits were not sent to the tribes among the degraded heathen. These people naturally sank under circumstances into a condition of ignorance and spiritual darkness. Children born under such circumstances could not be exalted.

13 - there are millions and millions of kingdoms that the people have no concept of (Journal of Discourses 6:347) [its odd how the LDS President appeals to the writings of Brigham Young to teach a point, but Latter-day Saints reject other Journal statements].

14 - man is an eternal being (Government of God, p. 52).

15 - the great work of the Lord is to save, not destroy [but in the Book of Mormon we find another Jesus. The 'Lord' supposedly destroyed many cities and peoples for their rejection of the Gospel. Instead of 3 hours of darkness, there were 3 days of darkness (Helaman 14:20). There was thunder and lightning for many hours (Helaman 14:21). Many mountains became like valleys (verse 23), there were great storms (verse 23), many highways were broken up (verse 24), and many cities were destroyed (verse 24). Nothing of this sort happened among the very people whom rejected him in Israel.

16 - the wearing of the cross is a repugnant custom and contrary to the true worship of our Redeemer. Wearing of the cross is very poor taste [but the early Mormons wore the cross. In later years, it became more taboo].

19 - Garden of Eden. There have been great changes on the face of the earth since the days of Adam.

20 - the entire human family, excepting those who were saved in the ark, were destroyed [some people doubt the global flood]. The earth was baptized in the flood.

21 - all water was in one place. Therefore all land must have been in one place (Genesis 1:9). There were not an Eastern Hemisphere and Western Hemisphere at the time of Adam.

23 - in the restoration, all the land surface will be in one place.

24 - the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided (D&C 133:21-24) [some people believe the land of Zion represents all of America].

- 26 - the false conclusion that practically one year had passed from the time of the resurrection until the Lord appeared on this hemisphere has been published and circulated through the Church [this is the same thing today. False teachings are still taught and published in LDS Church manuals and magazines]. 3 Nephi 8:5 (a great storm arising in the 34th year, first month, fourth day) is a reference to the time Jesus was on the cross [but the Jewish Passover is the fourteenth day of the first month. The Book of Mormon writer is not aware of this].
- 27 - Christ's ascension was the day of his resurrection after his appearance to Mary at the tomb, and before his appearance to his disciples [according to the Bible, Jesus spent 40 days with his apostles in Israel and then ascended into heaven. See Acts 1:3].
- 28 - Jesus appeared after the 3 days of darkness, when the people were astonished at what had happened. They had gathered at the Bountiful temple [see comment above. Joseph Fielding Smith is wrong].
- 30 - ouija boards should not be indulged in by members of the Church.
- 31 - don't seek inspiration or knowledge coming through any unsavory or evil source from Satan or one of his emissaries.
- 32 - our Father in heaven has from the beginning demanded of his children that they love and obey him [but in LDS theology, Adam and Eve could not obey the command to procreate until they disobeyed God's other commandment not to eat from the forbidden tree].
- 33 - people turned from the Lord to "familiar spirits" [scripturally, this is a term for demonic influences but it is given a positive meaning in some LDS teachings. It is taught that Isaiah 29:3-4 is a reference to the Book of Mormon - see "Scriptural Witnesses", General Conference, October 2007, "The Coming Tests and Trials and Glory", GC, April 1980; "Value of the Holy Scriptures", GC, April 1976, Ensign, May 1976; "That The Scriptures Might Be Fulfilled", GC, April 1974].
- 34 - prayer that God will deliver the LDS from secret combinations [I couldn't find any clear examples of what these secret combinations are].
- 35 - spiritualism started in the United States about the time Joseph Smith received his visions from the heavens. What is more natural than that Lucifer should begin revealing himself to men in his cunning way in order to deceive them? [many people believe demonic spirits appeared to Joseph Smith because of what he would eventually preach].

- 37 - Abraham's seed is the priesthood. Literal seed.
- 38 - scattering of Israel became a blessing to the Gentiles. Nearly all of the Latter-day Saints are of Gentile ancestry as well as being of the house of Israel [but which LDS are not?].
- 39 - in this Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, the gospel came first to the Gentiles and then is to go the Jews (D&C 19:27) [but the disciples did not exclude the Jews when they went primarily to the Gentiles after their dispersion. Even if you look at the LDS Church, they are not waiting for all the Gentiles to come into their church before they preach to the Jews]. The Gentiles who receive the gospel are in greater part who have the blood of Israel in their veins. Jacob 5 parable - Israel is the tame olive tree.
- 41 - wild olive trees are the Gentile peoples. The blood of Israel was scattered, or "grafted," among the Gentiles [this is incorrect. In the Book of Mormon, Jacob 5 does not say the tame olive trees were grafted into the wild olive trees]. In this day of gathering ... the Lord is calling back into the fold ... the children of Abraham. They are largely the tribe of Ephraim, for Ephraim was given the blessing of standing at the head in the last days (D&C 133:31-33) [but this section is talking about after the second coming of Christ, not before. And this section does not say that Ephraim is standing as the head].
- 42 - there was no eating of flesh before Noah.
- 44 - it was intended that all creatures should be happy in their several elements. [but the Mormon Adam and Eve did not have joy in the Garden of Eden before the fall]. Taking the life of creatures wantonly is a sin before the Lord. What is more joyful to the ear than the voice of a robin on an early spring morning as he sings his song? ... or the voice of the thrush, the meadow lark ... each of them expressing their joy for their experience? [same comment as above. The Mormon Adam and Eve did not have joy in the Garden of Eden before so they did not experience the joy which the animals had].
- 45 - it is necessary to destroy animal life when they become a plague to mankind.
- 50 - Paul thought it was the command of the Lord for the Jews to stone Stephen. Paul only took charge of the clothes of the guilty murderers [what?]. He was sympathetic with the killers.
- 51 - Paul felt that he was doing what the Lord had commanded Moses in the Law. He acted in righteous zeal.
- 52 - Paul's evil labors were ignorantly performed.

53 - Jesus told disciples how many who had professed his name would wax cold and would betray one another [this is incorrect. Jesus said, "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved". Joseph Fielding Smith says Christian would betray Christian and that they would wax cold].

55 - today the missionaries of the church are fulfilling the commandment by going forth in all countries where the doors are open [Jesus did not tell us to wait until countries open their doors. Missionaries are preaching the gospel in Saudi Arabia under fear of death or persecution]. Bear testimony of the restoration of the gospel. Sent to warn people by the divine authority within them [Mormon female missionaries do not have priesthood authority].

56 - only repentant sinners can be baptized [Mormon children are baptized when eight years old but I'm not sure what sins they need to confess].

57 - the debt we owe. Eternal life comes only by obedience to all commandments and covenants [eternal life is living life as a god in LDS theology]. Exaltation in the kingdom of God [it seems that non-exalted beings will not exist in the kingdom of God by this statement]. Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.

58 - passages mistranslated in the Bible are clarified in the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants [another subtle attack on the Bible. Ever since the Garden of Eden, the devil has tried to put doubt of what God said in the minds of people].

The greatest debt we owe to Jesus is for immortality and eternal life [but nothing is said about freeing you from your sin]. Adam brought death into the world [it appears there was no death just after Eve disobeyed God]. His extreme suffering and cruel death upon the cross brought to pass the atonement [this has evolved in LDS theology. The atonement now includes Jesus bleeding from every pore in the Garden of Eden].

59 - it is the prevalent belief that Adam committed a dreadful sin in partaking of the forbidden fruit ... the mistaken idea that Adam and his posterity could have lived in peace, love, and contentment, free from death had they not transgressed [but Adam, Eve, and the animals were living in peace, love, contentment, and free from death before the fall. There are many contradictory teachings on whether they sinned in the Garden of Eden. See the web page <http://ldslearning.org/original-sin.htm>].

The fall was a necessary part of the plan of salvation [it was ordained of the Mormon god that Adam and Eve should disobey him].

- 60 - the fall gave the human race the privilege of mortal existence [Adam and Eve felt shame and hid from God. They did not view the fall as a blessing even though the Pearl of Great Price has Adam and Eve praising God for their disobedience]. The divine plan would be lost if mortality had not been adopted [the plan of the Mormon god would fail without disobedience so he used Satan to save his plan from catastrophe. In this regard, Satan was a savior].
- 61 - the main purpose of life is to obtain tabernacles of flesh and bones for our spirits that we might advance [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve needed to advance first by taking a step of disobedience. Without disobedience, their god's plan would have failed]. Faithful ones will become sons and daughters of God [in LDS theology, you are already a spirit son or daughter of Heavenly Father]. Also you would become joint-heirs with Jesus. But if they are true to the commandments and covenants they will become kings/queens/priests and priestesses, possessing the fulness of blessings of the celestial kingdom [this passage seems to create a division between those who are joint-heirs and those who become priestesses/goddesses in the highest division of the celestial kingdom].
- 63 - no mortal can fully realize the price that Jesus Christ paid. It is an insignificant price we are asked to pay, and we should be willing to pay it in the spirit of thanksgiving, love, and obedience to every divine command. [I would not call it 'insignificant'. Besides, we can never pay the debt and we can never fully realize what he did and how he suffered. The concept of paying back the debt to Jesus figures prominently in LDS theology. See <http://ldslearning.org/a-gift-or-debt.htm>. They are even taught that they can pay the debt. "It will not be easy, but it will be possible" quotes the article].
- 64 - in D&C 88, there will be differences in bodies of several kingdoms to meet every need and restriction.
- 66 - in various kingdoms there will be some physical peculiarity by which each individual in every class can be identified (The Seer, p. 274).
- 69 - rebellion in heaven. Our Heavenly Father has been building worlds, peopling them, and having them go on to perfection through countless ages [I wonder if these people believe in the extraterrestrial Jesus Christ who came to our planet Earth or whether there are other Jesus Christs and Lucifers].

71 - since the joy of all who dwell there is perfect there could arise no occasion for a difference of opinion or a conflict of ideas [it seems that 'this' refers to a place where the Mormon god lived because there was a huge difference of opinion and this caused a war. This war supposedly resulted in this god losing one-third of his spirit children to Satan and outer darkness].

True freedom can only come through obedience to divine law. Personal ambitions are due to mortal desires [Eve was immortal and she desired to be like God].

72 - True freedom can only come through obedience to divine law. All weaknesses and ambitions of the flesh will have perished with the grave. Man cannot reach perfection in mortality. This will happen in the eternities to come (Matthew 5:48) [but the context of this passage is not about becoming gods or goddesses].

The moment a person turns from the path of truth and observance of divine law, he becomes subject to sin and a slave to sin [the original example is Adam and Eve].

73 - the purpose of life is to see if you are worthy of exaltation in the kingdom of God [it seems that the kingdom of God is only the highest division of the celestial kingdom, for only the gods live there]. Lehi defined joy as the fulness of life [but the robin and the meadow lark had joy but they were not deities].

78 - people will not be punished in ignorance of divine edicts.

79 - was the fall of Adam necessary? There is no original Bible known to man. Many errors crept into the Bible through copying and translations by un-inspired men [another subtle attack on the Bible. There is no original Book of Mormon known to man because the angel Moroni supposedly took the plates back].

79-80 - speak of partaking of the fruit as "Man's Shameful Fall".

80 - the fall was essential to the divine plan [it was decreed by the Mormon god that they disobey so his plan would not be destroyed]. Adam and Eve did the very thing the Lord intended them to do [the Mormon god wanted them to disobey him]. The fall was necessary [that is why Mormons honor Adam and Eve for their disobedience].

When Eve had partaken, Adam realized that he had to partake or he and Eve would have been separated forever [this is unscriptural. Mormons do not consider that God could have created a new wife for Adam. Also, Adam had no concept that there was something wrong with Eve after she had eaten so he apparently had no fear because he did not see any immediate consequences].

81 - all creatures partook of death through Adam's fall [it seems that death did not occur until after both Adam and Eve disobeyed God].

"Just why the Lord would say to Adam that he forbade him to partake of the fruit of that tree is not made clear in the Bible account, but in the original as it comes to us in the Book of Moses it is made definitely clear. It is that the Lord said to Adam that if he wished to remain as he was in the garden, then he was not to eat the fruit, but if he desired to eat it and partake of death he was at liberty to do so. So really it was not in the true sense a transgression of a divine commandment. Adam made the wise decision, in fact the only decision that he could make".

[this is incorrect. Adam was just as much at liberty to obey God's commandment to eat from the permissible trees as he was at liberty not to eat from the other trees. Also, he was free to choose to obey or disobey God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply. Also, God did not tell Adam and Eve they would live forever in the Garden of Eden. According to Genesis 2:7-8, Adam was formed and then he was put there. A Mormon temple ceremony portrays Adam and Eve walking into the Garden together, not realizing that Eve was not formed until Adam was in the Garden. Even in our modern era with our free will, God has forbidden us to do certain things but he gives us the liberty to disobey all of his laws and to partake of sin. What was true of Adam is also true for us. But for some reason, Mormons seem to focus on a few words in the Pearl of Great Price and then go on to invent a false doctrine.

Even Mormons are confused in regards to original sin. Joseph Fielding Smith does not view it as a transgression in its true sense. Other Mormons do view it as a transgression. And yet other Mormons view it as a sin. See the web page [original-sin.htm](#)].

Mortality was part of God's plan [the Mormon god wanted and needed them to disobey otherwise his plan would have been destroyed. The Mormon version of Lucifer came to the rescue].

82 - the purpose of life is to test to see if we are worthy of an exaltation in God's kingdom or be assigned to some other kingdom [it seems the kingdom of God is only for gods and goddesses].

83 - Eve gives praise for her transgression (Moses 5:11) [she apparently views her action as a transgression in its truest sense whereas Joseph Fielding Smith does not].



- 86 - birth of water is the baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. Baptism of the Spirit is by the laying on of hands by one who holds the priesthood [all confirmations done outside the LDS Church are viewed invalid]. An ordinance performed by one who has not received authority is mockery in the sight of the Lord [all ordinances performed outside the LDS Church are viewed as mockeries even though they say they respect non-Mormon faiths].
- 87 - they [those who only received John's baptism] had been baptized without divine authority [that is why a Catholic convert to Mormonism must be baptized again].
- 90 - the discernment of spirits is a gift of the Holy Spirit [unfortunately, the LDS did not use discernment when Joseph Smith started preaching in a God who has not always been God]. Jesus is the Christ.
- 92 - to sin against the Holy Ghost is to be enlightened by the Spirit to know that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh and then to turn away and fight the Lord and his work. He has resigned himself to evil knowingly. Jesus said there is no forgiveness for such a person [therefore there should be no danger in a Mormon to reject Joseph Smith's false teaching of God, leave the LDS Church, and go to a Bible-believing church to worship the true God. Technically speaking, that Mormon has turned away from a false God and turned to the true God].
- 94-95 - Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Ghost. Evidently this was just as efficient as if he had laid his hands upon them. The Lord may bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost by other means than by the laying on of hands if the occasion requires it [I wonder if any Mormon prophets ever blew on anyone to receive the Holy Ghost].
- 96 - the Nephites were rebaptized after Christ visited them. In the new order, Jesus commanded Nephi to be baptized [from the Book of Mormon account, no one went into the water with Nephi to baptized him].
- 100 - council of apostles. We have no reason to believe Paul received his ordination independent of the actions of the other apostles. Just when and how he was ordained is not revealed [so this means he could have received his ordination independent of the actions of any apostle]. John the Revelator was spared to continue his ministry his ministry until the second coming of our Lord, according to a revelation given to Nephi six hundred years before John's birth [unfortunately he did not provide the reference].
- 103 - talk about the witch of Endor and the supposed appearance of Samuel to Saul. (Improvement Era, volume 1, May 1898, pp. 495-500).
- 105 - divination with familiar spirits.

106 - put away those that had familiar spirits. Regard not them that have familiar spirits ... to be defiled by them (Leviticus 19:31) [but Mormons put one particular reference to familiar spirits in a positive light. See 2 Nephi 26:16. This is a copy of what you see in Isaiah 29:4. "And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust".

This passage is used to lend support to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. See the April 1976 General Conference of the LDS Church. The topic is "Value of the Holy Scriptures" by Elder Legrand Richards. "And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground - [Now I want you to get that when you speak out of the ground, it is not because you are alive that you are doing it; it is because of the record of your speech], and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust". Is there anything that has happened in this world to fulfill that like the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated that give the record of the early inhabitants of this land of America back over a period of thousands of years?"

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1976/04/value-of-the-holy-scriptures?lang=eng&query=familiar+spirit>

The church's web site has this footnote for  
<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/ot/isa/29?lang=eng>

"A people (the Nephites) will speak as a voice from the dust. The Apostasy, restoration of the gospel, and coming forth of a sealed book (the Book of Mormon) are foretold".

Page 69 of "A Marvelous Work And A Wonder" says, "Now, obviously, the only way a dead people could speak 'out of the ground' or 'low out of the dust' would be by the written word, and this the people did through the Book of Mormon. Truly, it has a familiar spirit, for it contains the words of the prophets of the God of Israel".

Some Bible commentators view this another way. "Jerusalem shall be as a captive, humbled to the dust. Her voice shall come from the earth as that of the spirit charmers or necromancers (Isaiah 8:19), faint and shrill, as the voice of the dead was supposed to be. Ventriloquism was doubtless the trick caused to make the voice appear to come from the earth (Isaiah 19:3). An appropriate retribution that Jerusalem, which consulted necromancers, should be made like them!"

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/jamieson-fausset-brown/isaiah/isaiah-29.html>

107 - necromancy is the communication or pretended communication with the spirits of the dead. The witch of Endor was led by a familiar spirit. She was a spiritual medium.

108 - liberty from troubles and labors of earthly life is essential to happiness [the Mormon version of Adam and Eve had liberty and no troubles from their labor but they were not happy in the Garden of Eden]. Don't seek after them that have familiar spirits (Isaiah 8:19-20).

The idea that a prophet could converse with a dead person on earthly affairs ought not to be entertained by any Latter-day Saint.

109 - if the devil never told the truth he would not be able to deceive mankind by his falsehoods. The powers of darkness would never prevail without use of some light [the devil used both darkness and light to deceive Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove].

There is no rational or doctrinal reason to believe Samuel actually appeared on that occasion [this is not correct. In this entire section, Joseph Fielding Smith never addresses the fact the witch cried and was in fear. See 1 Samuel 28:12-13. He never thought that she reacted this way because she really did see a vision that was not of her own making. Mr. Smith never thought that God could and would bring up Samuel for a special purpose].

Evil spirits act as 'familiar spirits' [or familiar spirits].

110 - when God has something to reveal, it will come through appointed persons. If the living desire to hear from the dead they should seek to the Lord. By permission of the Lord, persons on either side of the veil may be manifest to those on the other [the Latter-day Saints believe necromancy can still happen to them but earlier it was said that "The idea that a prophet could converse with a dead person on earthly affairs ought not to be entertained by any Latter-day Saint"].

112 - the temple of D&C 84:4 would have God's glorious cloud to rest upon it [no Mormon temple in history ever had God's glory over it].

113 - it was a matter of spiritual life or death to have in their possession the sacred records which Nephi was sent back to Jerusalem to obtain [this was not true of the Jews in their exodus out of Egypt. All they needed was the protection and guidance of God].

114 - those who stole the manuscript (116 pages) made changes to it as the Lord indicated they they would [I have never heard of this before].

115 - a better account of the same historical facts, far richer in detail. The apparent evil therefore turned out to be a blessing for all who read the Book of Mormon [this is hard to qualify because there is nothing to compare against].

117 - the Book of Abraham says the Lord created other worlds, and that they have passed through the same course of development that we are going through today and have gone on to their glory [notice the past tense. These other worlds already went on to their glory. Apparently Jesus, or some other Jesus, already made his Second Coming to these other worlds. What is not explained is if these other worlds had their own Jesus, Lucifer, and Adam and Eve equivalents].

119 - the people of the Lord knew the nature of this earth. The course it is pursuing is the same that has been covered by other worlds throughout the eternities [past tense again. Same comment as above].

120 - Nephites had perfect understanding of the heavens. Reference is made to the Aztec calendar stone. This showed the wisdom and scientific knowledge of the ancient inhabitants of the American continent [the close proximity of the Aztec reference to the Nephites seems to imply that the Aztecs were lineal descendants of the Nephites].

122 - the resurrection must be just as universal as was the fall [it seems there was a Fall on all the worlds the Mormon god supposedly created if they have already gone on to their glory as mentioned above].

123 - the same condition of mortality also came upon every living creature. Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery stood in the divine presence of the Son of God.

124 - know through the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus lives [but this was the last testimony that some Latter-day Saints gave ... and that was because they supposedly saw and heard him. D&C 76:22-23 says, "And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father". Personally, my first testimony is that Jesus lives, not my last. And my testimony does not depend on my seeing or hearing Jesus. What about you?].

Death passed upon all men to fulfill God's merciful plan. The first judgment came upon man (2 Nephi 9:6-7) [Gospel Principles view the fall as the start of great blessings].

126 - the difference between man and God is a matter of degree of intelligence [according to a teaching of the LDS Church, "By obedience and devotion to the truth he (Jesus) attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in his pre-existent state" (Religion 430-431 - Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual, 2004, page 10. The Mormon Jesus was only ranked as a god after achieving some level of intelligence. He, like the Mormon Heavenly Father, also progressed into becoming a god].

Book "Progress of Man" by Joseph Fielding Smith.

127 - intelligence combined with the spirit constitutes a spiritual identity or individual.

129 - animals suffered the same judgment [I wonder why they don't apply the word 'blessing' to the plants and animals when they also became mortal]. Every tree was pleasant to the sight of man (Moses 3:9) [but in LDS theology, Adam and Eve had no joy so they really could not have pleasure before the fall. After all, you can't have pleasure without a smile or joy]. It was spiritual in the day I created it. It became a living soul also.

130 - all trees were created spiritually. The spirit of a man is in likeness of his person. God created the spirit of the beast.

131 - the earth will be purified and will receive a celestial glory, to become a fit abode for celestial beings, for humans, plants, and animals [this means that the terrestrials and telestials will be moved somewhere else].

132 - for his sin, Cain was punished far worse than to have been put to death [God put a mark on his forehead so people seeing him would not kill him. It is not clear from the Bible what this mark was but Latter-day Saints believe it was a curse of dark skin all over his body].

133 - mercy killing. You cannot presume to know when someone will die [but an abortion is permitted in LDS theology if the birth threatens the life of the mother - so they can presume to know].

139 - when the Savior visited the Nephites, he permitted them to receive only the lesser things because he knew they were not ready to receive and abide in the covenants [I wonder if Joseph Fielding Smith felt the same way about Peter and the other apostles].

141 - there is much lack of faith and obedience among his people [an admission that apostasy is alive and well in the LDS Church]. The parable of Jacob 5 is one of the greatest ever written. No mortal man could have written it. It conveys in relation to the history, scattering, and final gathering of Israel. It is simple and very clear to those who earnestly seek to know the truth. It records the history of Israel down through the ages, the scattering of the tribes to all parts of the earth; their mingling with, or being grafted in, the wild olive trees, or in other words the mixing of the blood of Israel among the Gentiles.

142 - the branches of the olive trees (Israelites) were carried to all parts of the earth (the Lord's vineyard) and grafted into the wild olive trees (Gentile nations). Today Latter-day Saints are going to all parts of the world as servants in the vineyard to gather this fruit and lay it in store for the time of the coming of the Master.

[See <http://ldslearning.org/lds-jacob-5-section.htm>. This Book of Mormon chapter is not as glorious as Mr. Fielding Smith believes].

143 - marriage by proxy for the dead [Joseph Fielding Smith does not answer the question of Luke 20:33 - "Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife". How in a temple is a married man and woman on earth proxy married for someone in the spirit world?].

145 - there is a family of God in heaven as well as on earth. The rightful heirs are those who are married in the temple [what goes the Mormon god do with unlawful heirs?].

146 - men and women, when they marry in the temple, become members of the family of God [so it appears that single Mormon males and females are not part of God's family]. Marriage is only by someone with divine keys. The President of the [LDS] Church holds these divine keys. He can delegate them.

149 - humans have the freedom to disbelieve and rebel against commandments of the Lord [but LDS theology puts a positive spin on Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden]. Rewards come based on merit. Salvation is a free gift [Latter-day Saints have various definitions of salvation. Some are gifts, some are earned rewards].

150 - no one can obtain salvation without a thorough trial of faith and obedience to truth [in this sense, salvation means exaltation to godhood. This 'free gift' must be earned]. The "great ones" in the pre-existence no doubt proved themselves by trial [apparently there were evil choices in the celestial home].

- 151 - the Lord knew some "pre-destined" ones would not fall (Adam, Enoch, Abraham, ... great many more through the ages down to the Prophet Joseph Smith) [but Joseph Smith fell when he started teaching about a false god - the god who was once a man who became the Heavenly Father of planet Earth].
- 152 - receive rewards according to merit [one of these rewards is LDS salvation, ie. exaltation]. One who refuses to obey divine law will lose the reward. The goal of perfect is open to all [there are some interesting teachings in The Way to Perfection, by Joseph Fielding Smith].
- 153 - those who rejected the truth and rebelled were cast out with Lucifer because of the great gift of free agency [what truth was rejected at the Council in Heaven before war broke out?]. We have reason to believe that all who were privileged to come to this mortal world came here because they were entitled by pre-mortal qualifications [what 'plural' qualifications?].
- 156 - the Aaronic Priesthood was confined to the tribe of Levi [LDS theology opens this up to all Mormon males whether they are Levites or not].
- 157 - even Moses and Aaron were denied the privilege of entering the promised land. [Moses rebelled against God at the waters of Meribah].
- 158 - the second set of stone tablets did not contain the same things as the first set. The Bible says they did. Joseph Smith said no (JST, Exodus 34:1-2).
- 159 - all prophets held the Melchizedek Priesthood by divine appointment (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 181).
- 160 - when Jesus came, the fulness of the gospel and divine authority was restored.
- 161 - many details in the Book of Mormon are lacking [they attribute this fact to the Bible due to many precious things being removed from it. One is attributed to God not making it known, the other is due to the corruption of man. This is one way how they compare the Book of Mormon and the Bible]. Lehi held divine authority when he left Jerusalem. Details are lacking but the evidence is very clear that the Melchizedek Priesthood was possessed by the Nephites. There was none of the tribe of Levi among them.
- 162 - many details [of Book of Mormon stories] are missing.
- 163 - Alma baptized himself with Helam (Mosiah 18:13-14).
- 164 - there was one priest for every fifty of the people (Mosiah 18:18).
- 165 - there was no work for the dead in the days of Ezra.

- 166 - there was no proxy work for the dead done before the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Temples are required for the vicarious work of the dead.
- 167 - Latter-day Saints are baptized for their dead relatives, who they believe would have embraced the gospel (DHC 4, p. 231) [I thought Mormons baptized all their relatives in the hope that they would accept, because they don't know if they would have embraced the gospel if they had opportunity].
- 170 - Mormons do not describe the Negro as belonging to an inferior race [this is not accurate. See chapters 15 and 16 of The Way to Perfection. Some screen prints are provided in [lds-the-way-to-perfection-blacks-and-priesthood.pdf](#). The term 'inferior' is not used, but instead 'less-privileged'].
- 171 - those in the first resurrection enter the Celestial Kingdom.
- 174 - any person who sincerely reads the Book of Mormon will be convinced of its truth and be brought nearer to the Son of God than in any other way [the Book of Mormon does not have the same inspiration as the Bible. See the document "Comparing the Bible and the Book of Mormon"].
- 175 - the term "Latter-day Saints" is added to the name merely to distinguish us from the former-day Saints [but Jesus did not give his disciples any name to distinguish themselves from other believers of other eras]. A long period of apostasy or departure from the teachings of our Savior and his disciples. Joseph Smith was called to stand at the head of the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times [which is considered the greatest dispensation].
- 177 - any vital changes to the Book of Mormon? (see volume II, p. 199; volume I, p. 172) [some have documented over 3,000 changes].
- 179-180 - the Son of God has a perfect right to call us his children, spiritually begotten, and we have a perfect right to look on him as our Father, who spiritually begot us [what does begotten mean in the sense of Jesus being spiritually begotten of heavenly parents?].
- 183 - the spirit is eternal. Samuel was not called up by the witch of Endor [some believe it was really God who called Samuel up and that is why the witch screamed].
- 184 - when Jesus appeared to his disciples, he said that a spirit does not have flesh and bones [this is the same passage referred to by Joseph Smith in teaching that angels are resurrected personages, one of two types of beings in heaven. Why would Mr. Smith insinuate that angels are resurrected personages or the same type of being that Jesus (God) is?].



- 185 - children, after they die, will grow until they reach the full stature of their spirits [I think I read somewhere that spirits are already at their full stature before they come to earth to inhabit a mortal body].
- 187 - those who wilfully and knowingly transgress the laws of Heavenly Father are banished from his presence and made a partaker of punishment [this first happened to Adam and Eve. It will also happen to Mormons who end up in the terrestrial and telestial kingdoms]. There are various times appointed for the coming forth of the dead [in LDS theology there are multiple resurrections]. Deformity will be removed.
- 188 - you will become perfect through obedience. The body is in the grave but the immortal spirit has ascended to God from whence she came [I wonder why she did not go to the spirit world instead of back to God].
- 189 - defects (deformities) are due to mortal conditions which may have come upon the body even before birth. It is not an inheritance from the spirit world [most likely it is a consequences of the Fall].
- 190 - the people of the Lord through the ages have been builders of temples [the apostles knew that the Old Testament temple was done away with in Jesus Christ. We are now the temple of the living God]. Sacred ordinances were performed in Solomon's temple [none of the LDS temple ordinances were ever done in the Old Testament temple]. During the years when a temple could not be built, the servants of the Lord went to mountaintops to communicate with God (Enoch, Moses, Nephi, brother of Jared, and the Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake Valley) [Joseph Fielding Smith could not explain why no temple could be built by Enoch].
- 191 - the most important reason for building the Kirtland Temple was to have a sacred place dedicated to the Lord where ancient servants might come [present tense], as the Savior did himself. Angels were seen by many at the time of its dedication. The temple was filled with the glory of the Lord [the priests of the Old Testament could not remain in the temple or tabernacle when the glory of the Lord appeared. It was just too much for them. I think this is a strong exaggeration of this former LDS president].
- 192 - Elias and Elijah came. The evidence is genealogical research.
- 193 - the identity of Elias and Elijah is explained.
- 193-194 - the keys of binding and sealing power [I found no mention of these sealing or binding keys in the Book of Mormon or Doctrine and Covenants].

194 - Elias is Noah (Doctrine and Covenants 27:7; Answers to Gospel Questions, volume 3, pp. 138-141). Elias is also a title. John the Baptist and Joseph Smith were both an Elias.

196 - unless young people who marry outside the temple speedily repent, they cut themselves off from exaltation in the celestial kingdom. Otherwise they go to that kingdom as servants [ie. servants to those Mormons who are taught will become gods and goddesses. Also, US law requires Mormons to marry outside the temple so it is recognized by the courts]. Unmarried Mormons, after they die, don't become sons and daughters of God. They are not joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Only sons and daughters of God are heirs [but another LDS teaching says all spirits, whether single or married in the temple, are already sons and daughters of God].

197 - those who have family but don't marry in the temple will experience weeping, wailing, and the gnashing of teeth [Jesus makes mention of this in Matthew. "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth". The Latter-day Saints really paint a gloomy picture for their single members].

Eternal life is God's life; eternal increase. Eternal death means that people are separate and single forever. There is no eternal increase (posterity) for them [faithful Mormons are taught that they will have spirit children just like their Heavenly Mother and Father].

199 - teach your children as soon as they can understand what exaltation in the kingdom of God means [it must be very tempting for a Mormon child to learn and believe they can become a God some day. But then again, they are taught that they already are gods in embryo]. Adam and Eve had rebellious children [Adam and Eve became rebels when they disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. People have an idea that Adam and Eve had only three sons [is this what the Latter-day Saints used to believe?].

200 - there are many divorces and separations in the LDS Church. 4 Nephi shows they were happy raising large families.

201 - fourteen-year old boy in Korea was ordained as a deacon.

203 - Jacob 5 is evidence of the divinity of the Book of Mormon. No greater parable was recorded. It is a parable of the scattering of Israel. Israel is the tame olive tree. Gardiner takes some branches to all parts of the Lord's vineyard.

204 - took tame branches and grafted them into all the wild olive trees. Gentiles are the wild olive trees. Lord sent his servants to all parts of the vineyard. The servants dug and cultivated them. There is no greater parable in the Bible or anywhere else. The olive tree is the House of Israel. The Lord took a branch like the Nephites, like the lost tribes, and led them off to other parts of the world. The vineyard is the world.

206 - Jacob 5 was inspired of the Almighty. Why do we preach the gospel to the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? Because they are branches of the tree (the house of Israel). The Lord took branches of the tree and grafted them into the wild olive trees, the Gentiles. Why do we preach the gospel to China, Japan, and Korea? Because the blood of Israel is there [I wonder if Latter-day Saints can tell where the blood of Israel is not? Because, you know, it is possible that not all the world intermingled with Abraham's seed].

[In the Book of Mormon, Jacob 5 does not say the tame olive trees were grafted into the wild olive trees. The vineyard is not the entire world, but rather is the house of Israel (see Isaiah 5:7). Doctrine and Covenants 101:44 even mentions a vineyard with twelve olive-trees. If you look at Jacob 5, only the servant (one) is working with the Master in the vineyard for most of the time. Servants are not called in for the work until the time of the end. See <http://ldslearning.org/lds-jacob-5-section.htm>. This Book of Mormon chapter is not as glorious as Mr. Fielding Smith believes

208 - Sabbath Day of rest even for animals.

209 - the Lord gave Joseph Smith a plan for a city. It would have been a perfect city. Salt Lake City was laid out in the beginning according to that plan-four-square, ten-acre blocks, wide streets.

210 - the Lord inspired the Prophet Joseph Smith when he gave him the plan for the city of Zion. When President Brigham Young and the pioneers came here they followed that instruction [I have seen a plan for this city on the Internet but it is circular].

211 - baseball on the Sabbath Day frowned upon.

214 - the Lord did not condemn Solomon and David for having wives which he did not give them. The whole house of Israel was built on twelve sons of Jacob who had four wives [this does not mean this was God's plan. Also, the LDS plan on procreation for Adam and Eve is built on disobedience to God].

215 - Joseph Fielding Smith criticizes the Jehovah's Witnesses.

THE END