

Book Review - Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson

(Bookcraft, 1988).

"During his more than four decades as an Apostle, President Ezra Taft Benson has published several books and delivered thousands of speeches ... A wide range of subjects is presented in this five-part book. Gospel principles and doctrines are reinforced under topics such as God, the plan of salvation, latter-day scriptures, and gospel principles ... thoroughly indexed for ease of access, the book is a storehouse of knowledge and inspiration".

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

Part 1 - Gospel Principles and Doctrines

3 - the Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit. The Father and Son have tabernacles of flesh and bones. Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Father in the Flesh.

4 - some declare that man makes his own god and that the God of the ancient patriarchs is not the God of today. Surely, there is no place in Christian faith for this heresy [but Joseph Smith taught that Heavenly Father was once a man who became a god. Mormons also believe they can make themselves into gods through eternal progression].

Joseph's first vision clearly revealed that the Father and the Son are separate personages, having bodies as tangible as man's [it was not recorded in the first vision that Joseph actually touched either of them to verify this]. Later it was also revealed that the Holy Ghost is a personage of Spirit, separate and distinct from the personalities of the Father and the Son. This all-important truth shocked the world even though sustained by the Bible [I wonder how many Latter-day are shocked when they find their church teaching that Heavenly Father and Jesus progressed into becoming Gods? - which is not sustained in any of their scriptures]. All mortal beings are literally the Father's spirit offspring.

5 - today we see man walking in his own way, after the image of his own god (see D&C 1:16), an image that bears the stamp of worldliness, lust, greed, and power [Mormons today walk in hope that they can make themselves gods some day].

Heavenly Father is the master teacher, with a glorious plan based on freedom of choice, for the building of godlike men and women [did the Heavenly Father of Planet Earth create a new plan or did he just follow the plan of Jesus' Grandfather God?].

Heed the counsel of his living mouthpiece, a true prophet of God.

6 - he is our Father -- the Father of our spirits. We are his spirit offspring. Jesus was and is the Lord God Omnipotent (Mosiah 3:5). Jesus was a God in the premortal existence. The Book of Mormon convinces the world that Jesus is the Christ [but the Bible does that before the Book of Mormon came]. Jesus is the Father of Heaven and earth (Mosiah 3:8).

7 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body (his flesh) was sired by the Eternal Father. Jesus is the only child whose mortal body was begotten by Heavenly Father. Jesus came to earth through a royal birthright that preserved his godhood.

As the Son of God, he [Jesus] inherited powers and intelligence.

8 - Christ's example and precepts provide the great standard. Jesus had to qualify as the Redeemer.

9 - Jesus was God in the flesh.

11 - you should love God with all your might, then is his grace sufficient for you (Moroni 10:32) [isn't God's grace sufficient even if the person is an atheist?]. Let us read the Book of Mormon and be convinced that Jesus is the Christ [why not only read the Bible since it was in existence long before the Book of Mormon and it shows that Jesus is the Christ?].

12 - Jesus is the literal Son of God.

13 - on the third day there was a great earthquake [according to the Book of Mormon, severe destruction occurred at the moment of Christ's death. Darkness persisted for 3 days in various islands across the world (remind you of the plague in Egypt?) and there was an earthquake lasting 3 hours - 1 Nephi 19:10, 3 Nephi 8:3. A significant number of Book of Mormon cities are reported to have been destroyed - 3 Nephi 8:8-16, 9:19-23. Sixteen cities are mentioned by name. In the Book of Mormon, the temple veil was not split in half. In fact, this very important event is not even mentioned. Study Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 for its spiritual significance. Also, it appears the Book of Mormon people had multiple temples too. Jesus is said to have visited one group of these people as they were congregating near one of the temples after the destruction. The Jews had only approved site for their temple.

Let's compare with the biblical account. There was one momentary earthquake. Darkness lasted only 3 hours (Luke 23:44). No cities were destroyed and people were not slain. The only person that died was Jesus.

Do you remember the words of Jesus while he was on the cross? "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Do you also remember when a few of his disciples wanted a village destroyed because they had rejected His preaching? "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village" (Luke 9:51-56).

Do you notice this major difference between the two Christs?]

God would not give us a commandment if he did not mean for us to do it [but LDS theology teaches that Adam and Eve could not perform the commandment to be fruitful and multiply until they broke the other commandment, when they ate from the forbidden fruit].

14 - Jesus worked out the atonement in Gethsemane and Calvary. Jesus redeemed all those from spiritual death who will obey the laws and ordinances of the Gospel [many Mormons will suffer spiritual death because they never went to the temple]. It was in Gethsemane that Jesus took on himself the sins of the world. The holy act of taking on the sins of all men is called the Atonement.

15 - Jesus bled at every pore in Gethsemane. Redeem mankind from lost and fallen condition [we are lost and fallen because of the Fall]. Jesus suffered the pains of all men in Gethsemane [not biblical].

16 - the other side of the veil is paradise. In time, our spirits must be joined again to our bodies to obtain complete joy.

17 - the Book of Mormon records the resurrected Lord's appearance on the American continent [the Book of Mormon does not even mention the Americas. This is a purely Mormon speculation]. Jesus is the God of Israel and of the whole earth.

About 2500 people thrust their hands into his side. Jesus is the most high God (3 Nephi 11:10-17) [I read that passage. It does not speculate on any approximate size].

18 - Peter, James, and Moroni are resurrected beings.

19 - the church will not be taken from the earth again [so why believe Jesus the first time in Matthew 16?]. Holy angels have again communed with men on this earth [how is Moroni an angel when he was supposedly a man in ancient times?]. His church has been reestablished among men with all the spiritual gifts enjoyed anciently [you would not get this impression when you compare the Book of Acts with the Mormon Doctrine & Covenants].

The great and dreadful day of the Lord is near at hand. In preparation for this great event and as a means of escaping the impending judgments, inspired messengers have gone forth to the nations of the earth carrying this testimony and warning [I don't see this type of warning mentioned in any media].

Revelation given to Joseph Smith on Christmas Day in 1832 ... in which the Civil War of my own country was predicted [was Jesus born long ago on this Christmas Day? Check the month for this prophecy and see if it coincides with Christmas].

20 - purpose of life is to grow into the likeness and image of God.

21 - as eternal beings, we each have in us a spark of divinity (Conference Report, April 1971). As God's offspring, we have his attributes in us. We are gods in embryo. The Founding Fathers of this American nation are the best spirits the God of Heaven could find on the face of the earth [they were better than Joseph Smith and the first elders of the Mormon Church].

22 - we lived as spirits before mortal birth. The plan of salvation is operating ... throughout the many worlds which our Heavenly Father has created [these other planets have an extra-terrestrial Jesus]. Missionary work is functioning beyond the veil.

22-23 - we believe we lived as intelligent beings in a world of progress before this mortal life [according to the Pearl of Great Price, these intelligences existed before they were formed into spirit children of Heavenly Mother and Heavenly Father].

23 - our life on earth is a probation, a testing period, an opportunity for growth and experience [apparently these was a limit of growth and experience while they existed as intelligences and then spirits before coming to earth].

That we are the literal offspring of God has been a cardinal teaching of the Lord's prophets in all ages [this teaching is not found among the so-called prophets of the Book of Mormon]. Jesus is the firstborn in the spirit of our Father's children. Council in Heaven. Sustain provisions of the Father's plan. Required that all people obtain mortal bodies [so Adam and Eve had to disobey God].

23-24 - central issue of the council - which course they should follow, whether good or evil, or be coerced and forced to be obedient [Adam and Evil chose evil in the Garden of Eden]. The fallen spirits continue to foster the same plan (i.e. forced obedience) [this is actually not true. The demons do not want to force us to obey God. They want us to use our free will to disobey God. That is why Lucifer did not force Adam and Eve to obey God in the Garden].

24 - we could hardly wait to demonstrate to our Father and our Brother, the Lord, how much we loved them and how we would be obedient to them in spite of the earthly opposition of the evil one [but Adam and Eve did not show they loved God because they disobeyed him. They were indirectly showing love to Lucifer when they became obedient to him instead].

Mortal probation is the second estate, a time of testing to work out your own salvation (Abraham 3:25-26). President Kimball said man will suffer or enjoy his future according to life's work in mortality [imagine all those suffering Mormons in the terrestrial and telestial kingdoms who will suffer the misery of never living with God].

25 - man is the crowning achievement of creation. All wholesome things, both seen and unseen, are provided for his development and blessing [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve had to disobey God so that they could develop and be blessed with mortal bodies and procreation]. Mortality was provided to man as a probationary period to test him. God decreed its purpose [God really wanted Adam and Eve to disobey him because, in LDS theology, this was decreed in the Council in Heaven]. Father promised a Savior to redeem them from their fallen condition. Entering in the fulness of the Melchizedek Priesthood is only received in the house of the Lord ("What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children About The Temple", Ensign, August 1985, p. 8).

Spirit children of Heavenly Parentage. The righteous long for that homecoming to their Eternal Parents [i.e. Heavenly Mother and Father].

26 - exaltation is obedience to the Lord's gospel plan [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve needed disobedience so they could help in the gospel plan]. Immortality is a free gift to all men because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Eternal life is the quality of life enjoyed by Heavenly Father [Jesus said eternal life is a gift].

God bless all of us that we may follow the course laid out for us by our Heavenly Father and our greatest example -- the Lord Jesus Christ [Joseph Smith implied that Heavenly Father, not Jesus, is their greatest example because he was a man who became a God by climbing up his ladder, step by step. Mormons can learn from his example and take heart they they too can become Gods.

Here is the quote from the 1997 version of Gospel Principles, on page 305:

"The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: "When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the Gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation. But it will be a great while after you have passed through the veil [died] before you will have learned them. It is not all to be comprehended in this world; it will be a great work to learn our salvation and exaltation even beyond the grave" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 348).

This is the way our Heavenly Father became God. Joseph Smith taught: "It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the character of God ... He was once a man like us; . . . God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 345–46).

Our Heavenly Father knows our trials, our weaknesses, and our sins. He has compassion and mercy on us. He wants us to succeed even as he did".

Our Heavenly Father expects the youth and all members of his church to become exalted in the celestial kingdom. The young people of this church are candidates for the celestial kingdom and the highest glory in that kingdom.

27 - four purposes of life:

(a) to get a mortal body. Without a physical body man is limited in his progression [that is why LDS theology teaches that Adam and Eve had to disobey God ... to get a mortal body so that they could start their progression]. Only a permanently united spirit and body can receive a fulness of joy [in LDS theology, both Heavenly Mother and Father are resurrected beings - "We would need to leave our physical bodies at death and reunite with them in the Resurrection. Then we would receive immortal bodies like those of our heavenly parents. If we passed our tests, we would receive the fulness of joy that our heavenly parents have received. (See D&C 93:30–34.) - page 15 of the 1997 version of Gospel Principles].

(b) to get experience

(c) to prove that even in the presence of evil and sin we can live a good life [does God view you living a good life when compared to how Jesus lived his life?]. To prove that in spite of temptation that we have the strength and the character to adhere to the principles of the gospel [during the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, they followed Lucifer as the Mormon God required them].

(d) to provide an opportunity to help our Father in Heaven with His great plan [Adam, Eve, and the devil were helping the Mormon God in the Garden of Eden. Without the fall, their god's plan would be thwarted].

28 - since man had fallen he could not merit anything of himself. By Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man came Jesus Christ ... and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man (Moroni 7:12). The doctrine of the fall and its effects upon all mankind. No other book in the world explains this vital doctrine nearly as well as the Book of Mormon [the Book of Mormon does not give as much detailed information on the creation of Adam and Eve and their temptation by Satan as the Bible. If the Book of Mormon really explains this vital doctrine better than other books, then there would not be so much contradictory LDS teachings on whether or not Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. See <http://www.ldslearning.org/original-sin.htm>

29 - redemption from the fall through the atonement of Christ. Include other modern-day revelations. These should be coupled with the words of the Apostles and prophets and the promptings of the Spirit [but Mormons go to great lengths to distance themselves from many statements made by their second president of the church Brigham Young when they don't agree with them].

Alma fasted and prayed many days to know if it was true (Alma 5:45-46) [the fasting part is omitted in Moroni's exhortation in 10:1-4. There he only asks that you to read and to pray to know if it is not true].

30 - death is another purpose in life - man's mortal probation. We are eternal beings [in LDS theology, we existed as eternal intelligences before we were formed into spirit children of Heavenly Mother and Father].

31 - the spirit world is close by. It is part of the operation here on earth. When the spirits leave our body they are in the presence of our Father and God. Joseph Smith taught that departed spirits are permitted to look down and view the activities of this world and their loved ones [I have never seen this teaching outside of this book].

32 - work is going on on the other side of the veil. Death passed upon all men to fulfill the merciful plan of God (2 Nephi 9:6) [let's look at the entire verse "For as death hath passed upon all men, to fulfil the merciful plan of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of resurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall; and the fall came by reason of transgression; and because man became fallen they were cut off from the presence of the Lord". In LDS theology, God really wanted Adam and Eve to disobey Him in the Garden of Eden because they could not otherwise obtain death for them and their children. Death also passed upon all the other life forms on earth because of Adam].

Death is fundamental to our eternal progression [Joseph Smith also taught Heavenly Father passed through this phase before he became a God].

33 - God created and intended marriage and family to be the source of man's greatest joy while on earth [the Bible does not teach this. Interestingly, neither do the Mormon scriptures]. Through Joseph Smith, God revealed the eternity of the marriage covenant and the timelessness of the family [but Jesus taught otherwise - "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" - Matthew 22:30. One needs to study the entire chapter for the correct context. Jesus was saying that angels do have live in a family organization like wives, husbands, and children do].

- 35 - sometimes actions here by the priesthood of God, the First Presidency and the Twelve, as we meet in the temple, have been planned and influenced by leaders of the priesthood on the other side.
- 36 - missionary work is going on on the other side of the veil. Bruce R. McConkie will continue his ministry there.
- 37 - Joseph Smith is the head of the greatest and last gospel dispensation [it seems that Joseph Smith's period is even greater than when Jesus was walking on earth. That may explain why the LDS Church created the song "Praise to the Man", which depicts Joseph Smith mingling with the Gods in heaven].

The great purpose of God is to bring his children to eternal life [this is further elaborated in the 1997 version of Gospel Principles in chapter 1 - "All good things come from God. Everything that he does is to help his children become like him--a god". The 'a god' part was removed from the current version of Gospel Principles however].

We all will come forth as Jesus did with perfected bodies ("He is Risen", Ensign, April 1981, p. 7) [in LDS theology, the Mormon Heavenly Father also has a perfected body - see "Father in Heaven: A perfect being who looks like a mortal man but has a resurrected body of flesh and bones. He is the Father of our spirits, to whom we pray" (Gospel Fundamentals, 2002, Words to Know, p. 280). A web page at mormon.org used to mention that Heavenly Father has a perfected body of flesh and bones but this no longer appears there].

The fall of Adam ushered death into the world [for planets and animals too]. There are two divisions in the spirit world (the just go to paradise, the unjust go to prison - a state of darkness and misery). Jesus went only to paradise. Our spirits give life to our bodies.

- 38 - the earth will be made a fit abode for the celestial beings. Those who live to inherit the celestial kingdom will live on this earth eternally. This is made very clear in the scriptures (Washington D.C. Stake Conference, March 8, 1959). The celestial kingdom is the residence of God [supposedly the celestial and terrestrial inhabitants will be moved to another place. Those of Heavenly Father's children, who live a celestial law, will live on their own celestialized earth].
- 39 - the just and true are those who pay their tithes and offerings, sustain their church leaders by word and action, keep the Sabbath as a holy day, and obey all the commandments of God [the celestial and terrestrial inhabitants are considered as the unjust because they did not obey all the commandments. They live forever apart from God].

40 - the quest [or purpose in life] is to find true joy (2 Nephi 2:25)("The Power of the Word", Conference Report, April 1986, Ensign, May 1986, p. 81). More important than scriptures is the counsel and direction of living oracles. The words of the prophets, particularly the living President of the church, are crucial reading and can give direction and comfort [but the LDS Church also teaches her members not to accept every word they speak as the truth or doctrine. President Harold B. Lee explains, "It is not to be thought that every word spoken by the General Authorities is inspired, or that they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost in everything they write. I don't care what his position is, if he writes something or speaks something that goes beyond anything that you can find in the standard church works" - source: "Stand Ye In Holy Places, pp. 162-3, "The Prophet, Seer, and Revelator," Address delivered to seminary and institute teachers, BYU, July 8, 1964. But Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God, who is married, and that humans can become Gods too some day].

The best blood of the 19th century belongs to Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum (D&C 135:6).

41 - the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants establish the truth of the Bible and make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from the Bible (1 Nephi 13:39-40) [but many LDS doctrines and practices are not even found in the Book of Mormon. See "Comparing the Bible and the Book of Mormon - do they have the same author?" at www.ldslearning.org Also, the D&C needs support from a later LDS scripture called the Pearl of Great Price. As a Christian, the Bible does not need support from any other book for its doctrines].

Excluding the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants is by far the greatest external witness and evidence which we have from the Lord that the Book of Mormon is true (sections 1; 3; 5; 8; 10; 11; 17; 18; 20; 27; 42; 84; 135). In the D&C we learn about temple work, eternal families, degrees of glory [which are not found in the Book of Mormon by the way. See "Comparing the Bible and the Book of Mormon - do they have the same author?"].

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth (D&C 1:30 [in LDS theology, all other churches and religions fall under the 'false' category even though they believe some truth is contained in them. They consider all the baptisms and other ordinances performed therein as invalid].

The Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion and the Doctrine and Covenants is the capstone. The Lord has placed his stamp of approval on both the keystone and the capstone (Conference Report, April 1987, Ensign, May 1987, p. 83) [some things taught in the 1997 version of Gospel Principles are not supported by the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. Ex. God was once a man who became a God and that God is married. The Book of Mormon and D&C, for instance, never deal with the Jewish festivals, which is foundational for understanding God's dealings with His people].

42 - virtually every page of the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants teaches about the Master, his great love, his atoning sacrifice ... and teaches us how to live so that we can return to Him and our Heavenly Father (Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, p. 79) [this is not entirely accurate. The Book of Mormon and D&C do not describe in the same death the death, burial, and resurrection like the Bible. Many of the ways to live, ie. the Word of Wisdom, Temple Work, and Celestial Marriage are not found in the Book of Mormon, so one can't really return to live with Heavenly Father by abiding by its precepts. Also, Mr. Benson fails to mention a return to Heavenly Mother. This is because she is absent from scripture. But this has not stopped the LDS Church from teaching about her existence in Ensign magazines and Gospel Principles].

The Book of Mormon has a lot to say about America, freedom, and secret combinations [we know that the Bible makes quite a few references to countries in Europe and the Middle East, the Book of Mormon references to what we know of America are very vague. This is why there is no archaeological evidence for anything in the Book of Mormon. There is only speculation].

Doctrine and Covenants makes for important reading in a day when government controls are increasing and people are losing the right to control their own property (God, Family, Country, pp. 338-339) [it is unclear what his context is because no examples are cited]. These books [the Book of Mormon and the D&C] contain the voice of the Lord to us in these latter days (Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, p. 80).

42-43 - God particularly designed the Book of Mormon as the instrument to bring us to Christ (Conference Report, April 1987, Ensign, May 1987, p. 85).

45 - the Bible is a source of great truth. Without additional revelation to guide them, men began to interpret the Bible differently. Numerous churches and creeds developed [this might explain why different sects of Mormonism also arose]. The passage of James 1:5 in the Bible inspired Joseph Smith to go to a grove of woods near his home and kneel in prayer [the passage in James is asking God for wisdom, not to know which church to join. Also, the passage in James does not inspire me to go to forest near my home or to a mountain in another country. The passage in James also says nothing about kneeling

or praying vocally].

The Fathers of our country had to turn to religion in order that their new experiment make sense [experiment?].

46 - the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith on September 21 1823 [in early LDS Church history, this angel was called by another name]. Two great civilizations lived on the American continent.

47 - the Book of Mormon contains history from the Tower of Babel to about A.D. 421. Besides Joseph Smith, there were other witnesses who saw the angel and the plates [according to church history, only Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris were the additional witnesses. Not sure why you need 4 when two or three is good enough, right?].

The Book of Mormon is a sacred record. An inspired record, of the people who lived on this hemisphere between the period roughly 600 years before Christ and 400 years after Christ [for some reason Mr. Benson excludes the period in the Book of Ether]. The Book of Mormon substantiates the Bible [see the document comparing-the-bible-and-book-of-mormon.pdf].

The American Indians are a remnant (of these people) [the newer Book of Mormons, 2006 and afterwards, are moving away from this. The introduction page states, "After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are among the ancestors of the American Indians". The older version stated of the Lamanites, "they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians". The change is significant for those who have questioned the claim some of made of the Book of Mormon that it is a historical record of people who migrated to America from Jerusalem, rather than a creation of Joseph Smith, who said he translated it from gold plates given to him by the angel Moroni].

48 - we are not required to prove that the Book of Mormon is true or is an authentic record through external evidences--though there are many [there are no external evidences to the Book of Mormon. There is no geographical or archaeological evidences for the Book of Mormon].

The only proof God built into the Book of Mormon is found in Moroni. We each need to get our testimony of the Book of Mormon through the Holy Ghost [odd how this proof is not required in any other book God supposedly inspired].

Nephi testifies that the Book of Mormon contains the words of Christ and that if people believe in Christ they will believe the Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 33:10) [this is not true. Many who believe Jesus do not believe in the Book of Mormon. See comparing-the-bible-and-book-of-mormon.pdf].

The words and the way they are used by the Lord should become our source of understanding and should be used by us in teach gospel principles [the 1997 version of Gospel Principles has teachings very different from the Book of Mormon].

49 - Joseph Smith learned the true nature of God in the First Vision [he did not touch Heavenly Father but later claimed that he had a resurrected body of flesh and bones. Odd that both Heavenly Father, Jesus, and Moroni, never touched ground when they supposedly appeared to Joseph].

Who but God and inspired prophets could have foreseen the need for an additional witness for the divinity of His Son? [which Mormons could have foreseen the day when Joseph Smith would teach that God was once a man who became a God?]. Who but God and inspired prophets could have foreseen the time when self-evident truths in the Bible were made obscure by virtue of modern translations--translations made by scholars who seriously challenged the divinity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God? [I wonder if Mr. Benson is talking about the New World Translation used by Jehovah's Witnesses].

50 - we don't need the gold plates. This is not the way the Lord works. He operates through a law called the law of witnesses [but the God of the Bible left evidences of the writings of the Old and New Testament in scrolls].

2 or 3 witnesses (D&C 6:28; 2 Nephi 27:12-14) [I wonder why the LDS Church felt the need to have the testimony of eight witnesses displayed in every Book of Mormon then].

Ancient American prophets, 600 years before Christ, foresaw the coming of Columbus ... the establishment of the colonies ... the War of Independence, and predicted the outcome [supposedly this is talked about in 1 Nephi 13. The introductory notes for this chapter says, "Nephi sees in vision: the church of the devil set up among the Gentiles; the discovery and colonizing of America". Nephi writes about these Gentiles, "And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain". This is a reference to the white-skinned Nephites who were slain in the great battle by the dark-skinned Lamanites].

50-51 - the Book of Mormon tells about the prophetic history and mission of America (Title of Liberty, p. 87) [maybe Mr. Benson is specifically referring to the United States only].

51 - the object of studying the Book of Mormon is to learn from the experiences of those who have gone before us that blessings come by keeping the commandments of God and that tragedy is the result of disobedience [but LDS theology teach that great blessings resulted when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. The Book of Mormon says that Adam and Eve gained joy and the power to procreate as blessings for disobedience - see 2 Nephi 2:22-23. The Bible speaks of the tragedy of disobedience in relation to Adam and Eve; the Book of Mormon glorifies it].

52 - the Book of Mormon was confirmed by the ministering of angels (D&C 20:10). The treating lightly of the Book of Mormon by some early-returned missionaries brought the whole church under condemnation (D&C 84:54-57).

52-53 - 'testament' is translated as 'covenant'. This is one of the reasons why we have recently added the words "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" to the title of the Book of Mormon (Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, p. 4) [I think this was done for purely marketing reasons - an attempt to make it more acceptable to the Christians in other churches. After all, what took them so long to add this little phrase 5, 10, or more years earlier? Did they just discover the meaning of the word 'testament'? It's also odd that they did not add the same phrase to the Pearl of Great Price of Doctrine and Covenants].

53 - Book of Mormon is the keystone of the LDS religion. Central stone in the arch. Keystone of witness of Christ. Keystone of doctrine. Keystone of testimony. The Book of Mormon came from writer to reader in just one inspired step of translation, therefore the BOM's testimony of the Master is clear, undiluted, and full of power [Latter-day Saints view it as superior to the Bible. While Christians have remnants of the writings of the early apostles, from which we get the Greek New Testament, there is no remnant of the Book of Mormon because they believe the gold plates were taken back to heaven by the angel Moroni. What is unclear is why the LDS Church felt it had to make thousands of changes to Joseph's original translation. You can still get the original 1830 Book of Mormon to compare with the present-day version].

Much of the Christian world rejects the divinity of the Saviour. They question his miraculous birth, his perfect life, and the reality of his glorious resurrection. The Book of Mormon teaches in plain and unmistakable terms about the truth of all of those. It also provides the most complete explanation of the doctrine of the Atonement [I am not sure how Mr. Benson could consider someone a Christian who denies these truths. In regards to Christ's miraculous birth, I think it is Latter-day Saints who really deny the miracle behind it - a current LDS Church manual still teaches Jesus was born in a union between the immortal Heavenly Father and Mary (termed a Celestial Sireship; Religion 430-431 - Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual). Former LDS Church leaders have said Christ's birth was as natural

as yours. They view Heavenly Father as the literal parent of Jesus in the flesh. But this would also mean that Mary was not a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus about nine months after conception. The Book of Mormon does not even describe Christ's resurrection from the grave as the Bible does].

The fulness of the gospel means that in the Book of Mormon we will find the fulness of those doctrines required for salvation [there are many definitions of 'salvation' in LDS theology]. The Book of Mormon offers so much that broadens our understandings of the doctrines of salvation [you should read the three-volume set called Doctrines of Salvation. It is really different from what you read in the Book of Mormon. A commentary about it is found on this website].

53-54 - without the Book of Mormon, much of what is taught in other scriptures would not be nearly so plain and precious (Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, pp. 5-6) [fortunately the Bible does not depend on the Book of Mormon. It is sufficient on its own].

54 - Joseph Smith said a man would get nearer to God by abiding its precepts than any other book [but the Book of Mormon does not teach you what you must do to become a god or goddess. These 'extras' are found in the Doctrine and Covenants - specifically, following the Word of Wisdom, getting married in a temple, and performing proxy work for the dead].

Book of Mormon prophets testified hundreds of years before that he would be born of a virgin named Mary and that his name would be Jesus Christ.

Mosiah 3:8 - And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary" [the angel Gabriel told Mary that he would be called Jesus, not Jesus Christ. 'Christ' was not his last name. It is a title. The Mormon Jesus did not create all things. For example, Jesus did not create Lucifer because Mormons teach they are spirit brothers. Jesus did not create you either because you are his spirit brother too. And Jesus is the Father of heaven and earth? Isn't it Heavenly Father? In LDS theology, Jesus is both the Father and the Son; see Mosiah 15:2-3].

Alma 7:10 - And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God" [see comment above on whether Mary was a virgin].

55 - many years before his first coming, Book of Mormon prophets foretold that he would be crucified, buried, and rise again from the dead [in Jesus' ministry on earth, the disciples did not believe this]. The Book of Mormon tells an account of his ministry to the people on this continent following his ascension in Jerusalem (3 Nephi 9-28) [Latter-day Saints have no real idea where Jesus came; only speculation]. The Book of Mormon states Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God [but the Mormon Jesus is taught to be the first spirit child of Heavenly Mother and Father. He was ranked as a God when he reached some level of intelligence. He is not God from all eternity to all eternity. Prior to him becoming the first spirit child of heavenly parents, Jesus existed as an eternal intelligence, but not an eternal God].

56 - some form of Christ's name is mentioned more frequently per verse in the Book of Mormon than even in the New Testament. He is given over one hundred different names in the Book of Mormon (Conference Report, October 1987, Ensign, November 1987, p. 83) [I would like to see this list of over 100 names so we can do another comparison with the Bible. I wonder if any of these names make Mr. Benson's list:

- El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)
- El Elyon (The Most High God)
- Adonai (Lord, Master)
- Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah)
- Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)
- Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)
- Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)
- Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)
- Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)
- Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)
- El Olam (The Everlasting God)
- Elohim (God)
- Qanna (Jealous)
- Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)
- Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)
- Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

The Book of Mormon contains the most comprehensive account of these fundamental doctrines: nature of the Fall, nature of physical and spiritual death, Atonement, justice and mercy as it relates to the Atonement, and principles and ordinances of the gospel.

The Book of Mormon exposes the enemies of Christ. God, with his infinite foreknowledge, so molded the Book of Mormon that we might see the error and know how to combat false educational, political, religions, and philosophical concepts of our time [if Mormons truly followed Old Testament teachings in the Bible, they would have stoned Joseph Smith to death when he started teaching that God was once a man who progressed to godhood on another planet. Also, I do not see Mormons using the Book of Mormon to combat all those false things taught in the 1997 version of Gospel Principles].

- 57 - bear witness of the Book of Mormon ... its history is true. It testifies of Christ's appearance to the American inhabitants shortly after his resurrection in Jerusalem [but Latter-day Saints do not know where Jesus made this supposed appearance].
- 58 - if you are sincere, you will receive a confirmation of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon by the Holy Ghost (Conference Report, October 1981, Ensign, November 1981, p. 61) [this is related to Moroni 10:4. Odd that this does not apply to any of the other Mormon scriptures]. We must make the Book of Mormon a center focus of study because it was written for our day [how unfortunate Mormons don't realize that the Bible was written for our day].
- 59 - a major portion of the Book of Mormon centers on the few decades just prior to Christ's coming to America [this does not make sense]. By careful study of that time period we can determine why some were destroyed in terrible judgments that preceded his coming and what brought others to stand at the temple in the land of Bountiful and thrust their hands into the wounds of his hands and feet [only some were destroyed? Really? The Book of Mormon depicts a vengeful Messiah. It speaks of a great destruction to people whom Jesus never personally ministered to while nothing of this sort happened among the very people who rejected him.

Severe destruction occurred at the moment of Christ's death (3 Nephi 8:3; 11:2). Darkness persisted for 3 days in various islands across the world and there was an earthquake lasting 3 hours (1 Nephi 19:10; 3 Nephi 8:3). Many Book of Mormon cities are reported to have been destroyed (3 Nephi 8:8-16; 9:19-23).

In the Book of Mormon, the temple veil was not rent in twain. In fact, this very important event is not even mentioned. Study Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 for its spiritual significance. There was one momentary earthquake in the Bible. Darkness lasted only 3 hours (Luke 23:44). No cities were destroyed and people were not slain. The only person that died was Jesus.

Do you remember the words of Jesus while he was on the cross?

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Do you also remember when a few of his disciples wanted a village destroyed because they had rejected His preaching? “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village” (Luke 9:51-56).

Do you notice this major difference between the two Christs?

Also, the Nephite disciples had ever lesser faith than Thomas. They did not believe that Jesus had appeared to them until they all put their hand in his side and felt the nail prints in his hands (3 Nephi 11:14-16). Thomas was asked to by Jesus but apparently he just exclaimed "My Lord and my God" and did not touch Jesus. Christ's words were enough for him.

59 - from the Book of Mormon we learn how disciples of Christ live in times of war [there is so much war mentioned in the book that you get the impression that they were professional soldiers; always warring with the Lamanites. This may explain why Joseph Smith was a military man].

Read the Book of Mormon and then ask God it is is true (Moroni 10:4) [but Moroni says to ask if it is NOT true]. This is the supreme assurance for the honest in heart [feelings play a very important role in the lives of Mormons. Feelings can also supercede the truth that the Bible teaches when it conflicts with what they read in their scriptures. Joseph Smith also taught that one could detect a false spirit with a hand shake. See D&C 129:4-9. "When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you ... If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him". The Mormon demons are very stupid if they allow themselves to be detected this way].

60 - the Book of Mormon gets you nearer to God than any other book [but one can't get nearer to God until you become a God or Goddess yourself. And the Book of Mormon does not tell you about its critical requirements to do so - i.e. keeping the Word of Wisdom, getting married in a temple, and doing temple work for the dead].

Visit of the resurrected Savior to the American continent (3 Nephi) [LDS Church art depicts this happening in the Yucatan Peninsula]. Use the Book of Mormon to combat organic evolution [how?]

- 61 - the God of this land is Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon shows that secret combinations proved the downfall of both previous American civilizations (A Witness and a Warning, p. 6). [according to wikipedia, a secret combination is a secret society of "people bound together by oaths to carry out the evil purposes of the group". Joseph Smith and the early LDS leaders were also involved in a secret society called Freemasonry. While they left this society, they incorporated some of its rituals into Mormon temple ceremonies. That is why members of both societies are not to tell what happens in the lodge or temple ... because they would notice the similarities].

After Joseph's vision, he told a minister about it. Joseph was surprised by the reaction of this minister (History of the Church 1:21) [odd that he didn't tell his father first. Also, why would he tell a minister of it when the two beings who appeared to him told him that all churches were wrong and he should join none of them? Odd].

All objections (to the Book of Mormon), whether they be on abortion, plural marriage, seventh-day worship, or other subjects, basically hinge on whether Joseph Smith and his successors were and are prophets of God receiving divine revelation [what has the LDS Church revealed about abortion? When is abortion considered murder?].

- 62 - be best instruct our children in the Book of Mormon at our dinner table, by our firesides ... in all our goings and comings [according to wikipedia, a fireside is a supplementary, evening meeting in the LDS Church. A fireside usually has a single speaker on a religious topic and lasts from one to two hours. Sometimes, the fireside will be broadcast via satellite to stake centers and Institutes of Religion].

The prophets, particularly of the Book of Mormon, saw our day [really? What does it say of abortion, homosexuality, slavery, and financial fraud?]. You will learn more from studying and reading the Book of Mormon (about our currently problems) that you will by reading the daily paper [see comment above].

- 63 - the Book of Mormon, the record of Joseph, verifies and clarifies the Bible [actually, the Bible shows the errors of the Book of Mormon. See the document [comparing-the-bible-and-book-of-mormon.pdf](#)].

We do not have to prove the Book of Mormon is true. The book is its own proof [there is no archaeological or geographical evidence for anything in the Book of Mormon. There is very much for the Bible on the other hand].

64 - condemnation still rests on the LDS Church for its use of the Book of Mormon. Mormons have neglected this book. The Lord inspired his servant Lorenzo Snow to reemphasize the principle of tithing to redeem the LDS Church from financial bondage. So too in our day the Lord has inspired his servant to reemphasize the Book of Mormon to get the LDS Church out from under condemnation--the scourge and judgment [but Doctrine and Covenants reveals the reason why tithing was put in place - due to the failure of many to abide the law of consecration, the Lord is said to have withdrawn it and substituted the law of tithing instead (D&C 119 – July 1838). Apostasy caused the saints to be moved out of their place (D&C 124:45-46).

The translator of the Book of Mormon testified it is the word of God (Article of Faith #8) [for the sake of his reputation and life, he had too]. Take away the Book of Mormon and the LDS Church ceases to exist [I think this explains why some Mormons who leave the LDS Church also lose faith in Jesus Christ. They really never had faith in the Bible as the Word of God].

65 - the Savior's visit to America (Ensign, May 1987, p. 4). One man on earth holds the keys of God's kingdom, as Peter did anciently (God, Family, Country, pp. 159-160) [Mormons make the same mistake as Roman Catholics. They do not realize Jesus gave the keys to all the disciples - see Matthew 18:1, 18).

Compliance with laws and ordinances will enable each individual to stand guiltless before Him at the day of judgment [only faith in the Atonement provided by Jesus Christ will enable each individual to stand guiltless before Him at the day of judgment. Latter-day Saints fail to understand a teaching in their Book of Mormon - "If ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants" - see Mosiah 2:21].

66 - faith in Jesus Christ consists of complete reliance on Him [with 0 reliance on your works]. He permits evil so that we can make choices between good and evil.

67 - every one of God's children has in his heart a belief in a supreme being - a deity [Mr. Benson supposedly did not meet many atheists in his day].

By nature man wants to find God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He cries out for contact with Him (Church News, May 20 1961, pp. 13-14) [this is not biblical. The natural man is an enemy of God. Ephesians 2:3 tells us that before we were saved we were "by nature objects of wrath". Romans 9:8 says that "it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring". Instead of being born as God's children, we are born in sin, which separates us from God and aligns us with Satan as God's enemy (James 4:4; 1 John 3:8).

Faith in the future of this choice land (The Red Carpet, p. 288) [is Mr. Benson only referring to the United States or does he include Canada and Mexico?].

69 - the whole duty of man is to trust God and keep his commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Joy and happiness will enter our hearts as we trust in God and keep his commandments [but the Book of Mormon and the LDS Church teach Adam and Eve did not have joy until they broke one of God's commandments].

69-70 - say nothing but repentance unto this generation (D&C 6:9; 11:9). Every prophet should have a testimony that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith is a prophet.

70 - God loves the sinner but condemns the sin. Be moral and strictly honest in every point before you ask God to reform your spirit (Journal of Discourses, 4:61). Is that not great counsel? [I would say this is bad counsel. You should ask God to reform your spirit while you are still in your sin, not after you try to clean yourself up].

71 - Wickedness never did, never does, never will bring us happiness. Violation of the laws of God brings only misery, bondage, and darkness [but the LDS Church teaches that Adam and Eve's violation of only one law of God brought them both misery and happiness. Without misery, they could not experience joy].

Even the most just and upright man cannot save himself solely on his own merits (2 Nephi 2:8) [but the Book of Mormon says we are saved by grace AFTER all we can do - "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do". In LDS theology, the merits of Christ are added after; to make up the shortfall of one's own merits. And the use of the word 'can' is an error. God did not give us commandments to see if we 'can' do them. He gave them to us so that we 'must' do them. We are not on a 'try your best effort' scale].

Repentance involves not just a change of actions, but a change of heart. The gospel is the Lord's plan of happiness and repentance is designed to bring us joy [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve did not have joy before they disobeyed God. Apparently they experienced joy only after they repented of their sin. "His ransom for Adam's original transgression so that no member of the human family is held responsible for that sin ... while all members of the human family are freely given a reprieve from Adam's sin through no effort of their own, they are not given a reprieve from their own sins unless they pledge faith in Christ ... and press forward in faithful endurance the remainder of life's journey" (Ensign, "The Atonement of Christ", March 2008, p. 35, subheading "The Gifts of Christ's Atonement")].

Most repentance ... is a step to step ... toward godliness.

- 72 - our sins caused him to bleed at every pore. We seek to become more and more godlike [the goal of Mormon exaltation to become Gods and Goddesses]. It takes a humble person to change.
- 72-73 - it is fitting and proper that Christmas and the beginning of the new year should be a time for us to reexamine our lives and ideals, to humbly confess our shortcomings, and to determine to repent [I could not find this teaching in all the Mormon scriptures].
- 73 - become a part of the kingdom of God in preparation for Christ's second coming. If you refuse to repent, to accept the testimony of his inspired messengers, or to unite yourselves with God's kingdom, then the terrible judgments and calamities promised the wicked will be yours [many Christians cannot accept the testimony of Joseph Smith because he taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God. Through his marriage with Heavenly Mother, they procreated to form the first spirit child Jesus. This Jesus would also later become a God himself].
- 74 - God will not permit the sins of ... killing the unborn ... to go unheeded without grievous punishment for such wickedness [is abortion a forgivable sin in LDS theology?]. We do not know Him until we become like Him (Come unto Christ, pp. 51-52) [I wonder if this means becoming a God like Him? For the Latter-day Saints, I hope not - "... Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not"]. Repentance will bring a reformation of life.
- 75 - baptism makes you a child of the covenant. An investigator who will not commit to praying, going to church, or living the Word of Wisdom is certainly not prepared for the serious baptismal covenant [this was not the case with Philip - "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" - Acts 8:27-39].
- 76 - the world has the light of Christ to help guide it, but we are entitled to that great gift, the gift of the Holy Ghost [the 'we' represents only the Latter-day Saints in their theology]. If our channels are not clean then inspirations are really promptings from the devil ("In His Steps", 1979, Speeches of the Year, BYU). [only the devil could prompt one to believe and teach Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God].

One reason we are on this earth is to discern between truth and error (Come unto Christ, p. 22) [fortunately some have discerned the error in Joseph Smith's teachings about God and have left the LDS Church]. Reference is made to the Christmas lighting ceremony, Temple Square, Salt Lake City, November 26 1982. According to the churches website, the tradition of having lights on Temple Square dates back to the tenure of President David O. McKay, who served as President of the Church from 1950 to 1971". <https://www.lds.org/church/events/temple-square-lights-up-the-season?lang=eng>

"Everything on the grounds has to be done by the week of Thanksgiving in order to be ready for the first night of lights on November 26. As many as 100 people might be on the grounds at a given time, hanging garlands or straightening luminaries. Families and Church groups spend an evening draping nets of lights over shrubs, while service missionaries hang garlands that function as cordons along the sidewalks. The theme of the lights is such that they are "in harmony with each other and with the Temple Square spirit," she says, rather than based on traditional holiday color schemes. The colors are meant to encourage the true spirit of the season and to remind people of the Savior". <https://www.lds.org/church/news/lighting-up-temple-square?lang=eng>

But some other Latter-day Saints believe the time Jesus was born was in April. See "Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer", General Conference, April 1997. <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1997/04/jesus-christ-our-redeemer?lang=eng> "It is April 6th. Modern scripture records that Jesus Christ was born on this day". This quote is linked to D&C 20:1 - "The rise of the Church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, it being regularly organized and established agreeable to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month which is called April". It seems Mormons follow the Catholic tradition in December but another, less obvious tradition, in April. Thus, they seem to celebrate the birth of Christ twice.

77 - the Spirit will not dwell in unclean tabernacles. These warnings have come through the mouthpieces of the Lord on earth today. Let us rally together on principle behind the prophet as guided by the promptings of the Spirit (God, Family, Country, p. 342) [the Spirit will prompt one to leave the LDS Church when a member realizes that Joseph Smith taught a false god when he said Heavenly Father was a man who became a God]. We hear the words of the Lord most often by a feeling. If we are humble and sensitive, the Lord will prompt us through our feelings [it seems feelings supercede the scriptures for Mormons when they attempt to discern what is truth from error].

78 - to gain eternal life there must be a rebirth, a transformation (Conference Report, April 1958, p. 14). In addition to the physical ordinance of baptism and the laying on of hands, one must be spiritually born again to gain exaltation and eternal life [today's LDS Church would add the physical ordinances of keeping the Word of Wisdom, Celestial Marriage, and proxy work for the dead. Without these, there is no exaltation].

The "change of heart" and "born again" processes are best described in the Book of Mormon. Those who had been born of God ... had no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually (Mosiah 5:2, 7) - "And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters".

For some reason, Mr. Benson does not reference Mosiah 27:25 - "And the Lord said unto me: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters". I think this was done because Latter-day Saints believe they are inherently good and that they don't have Adam's sinful nature.

But to be honest with you, I think the Bible better describes the importance of being born again and the process. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God ... Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever".

The Book of Mormon uses the term "born again" 3 times (Alma 5:49; 7:14; and Mosiah 27:25) but no mention is made of the water and the Spirit. For this, one must read Moses 6:59 in the Pearl of Great Price. There is no mention of being born again in the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price].

Alma resigned his seat as chief judge in the government and confirmed himself wholly to high priesthood responsibility (Alma 4:20) [Alma 46:38 says "And Helaman and the high priests did also maintain order in the church". There is no office of "high priest" in the New Testament Church but there is in the LDS Church. That is why she cannot claim to be a restoration of the church in its original form. Also, whoever wrote the Book of Mormon failed to realize that there was only one high priest at a time in the Old Testament].

79 - Christ can change human nature [this is the fallen nature that we inherit from Adam]. Twelve men did quite a lot to change the world [nineteen hundred] years ago [the LDS Church pays greater homage to the twelve biblical Apostles than the twelve Book of Mormon disciples or the twelve LDS apostles].

80 - pictures on their walls reveal them as Christians [how can a picture indicate whether a person is a genuine Christian or a carnal one?]. Almost every week they partake of the sacrament [why the use of the word 'almost'?]. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe we lived as intelligent beings in a world of progress before this mortal state [but Joseph Smith taught you lived as an eternal intelligence before you were born to heavenly parents. This would even go before the Mormon Heavenly Father was once a man who is said to have become a God].

Our life on earth is a probation, a testing period (Abraham 3:25), an opportunity for growth and experience in a physical world [Gospel Principles says that the spirit world was also a period of growth. Only when you could not progress further, then another place was needed]. The gospel ... master plan, if lived, will build ... godlike men [for some reason Mr. Benson did not say will build ... Gods and Goddesses. After all, that is the point of their teaching on exaltation].

Free agency is an eternal principle [in LDS theology, you had free agency even before you existed as a spirit child of heavenly parents]. We enjoyed freedom of choice in the spirit world as spirit children [supposedly these spirits choose between good and evil there too].

80-81 - Lucifer, with one-third of the hosts of heaven, was cast out; and they continue their opposition to God's plan, which is based on the freedom of the individual [well, not exactly. One-third of the hosts of heaven were not cast out. It was supposedly one-third of Heavenly Father's children. One third of God's created angels and other creatures were not cast out with Heavenly Father's spirit children. Let's make that clear. And in the Garden of Eden, Lucifer was not opposing God's plan of free agency. In LDS theology, he was actually helping God by getting Adam and Eve to use their freedom of choice to disobey God instead of forcing them to disobey God].

81 - the Great War in heaven was about freedom. The struggle to preserve freedom has been a continuous one. Prophets of God have been commanded to proclaim liberty and lead the battle to preserve freedom [but humans have always had the freedom to choose good or evil. This freedom even exists in a Communist country].

The gospel can prosper only in an atmosphere of freedom [well, not exactly. The church in the New Testament grew more when persecution hit]. Freedom is symbolized by the right of choice - free agency [but no government on earth has ever attempted to take away man's ability to choose good or evil].

To a modern-day prophet, the Lord declared that it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another (D&C 101:79) [Mr. Benson totally changes the context and now means that no freedom means you are a slave. Not sure why he does this. Even the slaves of Africa and the United States had the freedom to choose between good and evil].

The scriptures tell us about the war in heaven over free agency -- similar to the war we are going through now [really? Satan is trying to take away your freedom to choose between good and evil?]. The devil's plan was guaranteed security. I find certain elements in the church do not like to read the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants so much - they have much to say about freedom (Title of Liberty, pp. 80-81) [there are enemies even within the LDS Church. I wonder how the leadership spots them].

It was a struggle over free agency that divided us before we came here; it may well be the struggle over the same principle that will deceive and divide us again (God, Family, Country, p. 338) [that's an odd statement. How were one-third of the spirit children deceived? They knew full well what they were rejecting].

82 - you are a moral agent with freedom to choose between right and wrong [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve choose right when they disobeyed God]. There cannot be true happiness without freedom [but in LDS theology, Adam and Eve did not have joy when they had the freedom of choice. They experienced joy after they used this freedom to disobey God].

Freedom of choice is a God-given eternal principle [which God gave Heavenly Father this freedom of choice when he was a man progressing to become a God? How is freedom of choice God-given when agency is an eternal principle?] A man is free to accept or reject the gospel [contrary to what Mr. Benson said earlier, the devil is not trying to take away your ability to accept or reject the gospel. He is not trying to force you to make a decision].

God has given men their agency [same question as above. Which God gave Heavenly Father his agency when he was a man progressing into becoming a God?]

83 - Satan's plan proposed to save the lives of all, to take away free agency, to force men to do right, but this ran contrary to the principles of God [but in the Garden of Eden, Satan was not there to take away Eve's free agency or to force her to do right].

The right of choice is a God-given eternal principle [but agency is not given. It itself is said to be eternal, like intelligences]. You have been given the freedom to choose liberty and eternal life ... or to choose captivity and death (2 Nephi 2:27) [in LDS theology, only Gods have eternal life].

The fate of humanity and all civilization hinges on whether man will use his free agency to govern himself [Adam and Eve used their free agency wrongly and suffered].

83-84 - man must learn to conform to the laws which God has given to mankind [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve could not keep one commandment until they disobeyed the other].

84 - bad experiences are an expensive school that only fools keep going to. This life is a probation.

85 - 2 Nephi 2:25 is an implication that men should have free agency. Men are free agents unto themselves to do good or evil. Jesus said that the kingdom established in his time would be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:43). He knew an apostasy would take place [this is not what Jesus said. One must study the context correctly. "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them". The Jews, as a whole, had rejected the kingdom. So the disciples would eventually take it to the Gentiles. The chief priests and the Pharisees were not part of the kingdom Jesus established so he was not talking about apostasy in the church. Simple enough, but some do not understand].

The world entered that long night of apostasy, the Dark Ages. The church was no longer sanctioned by God [this goes against Christ's teaching in Matthew 16:19]. Truth was turned to superstition, joy to despair, and worship to ritual [the LDS Church has turned speculation into truth. I have attended several ward sacrament meetings on Sunday. There is much more ritual than worship. Even the songs are very very sombre ... like in a funeral].

86 - Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it [this is like to pot calling the kettle black. The LDS Church also adopted Christmas lights and trees - unless they are not pagan in origin]. The Church that Jesus had established and sanctioned was no longer on this earth (This Nation Shall Endure, p. 115) [the 1997 version of Gospel Principles refers to it as the destruction of the church].

Prophecy of a complete apostasy from the truth [the Latter-day Saints use a manual called Religion 430-431 - Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual. Chapter 22 says,

"A great apostasy from the Savior's Church was foretold" - "Old Testament prophets predicted an apostasy (see Isaiah 24:5-6; Amos 8:11-12). New Testament prophets warned that mankind would turn away from the gospel (see Acts 20:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1-3)"

"A universal apostasy occurred after the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ - "Early Apostles warned of growing apostasy within the Church (see Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-12; 11:18-19; 2 Timothy 1:15; Revelation 3:14-16). Latter-day revelation confirms the reality of the Apostasy as foretold by Christ and His Apostles (see Joseph Smith—History 1:19)".

But none of the scriptural passages show a universal or complete apostasy (except for maybe 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. The involves the coming of an evil leader whom Jesus will destroy at the Second Coming). The references to the passages in Isaiah and Amos refer to the Old Testament, not to the church Jesus established].

Joseph Smith was told that all the secs were wrong and that he must not join any of them [he was also told that ALL their creeds were an abomination].

87 - doctrinal disputes were settled on the basis of [LDS] revelation] [Joseph Smith revealed that God was not from everlasting to everlasting and that he was a man who progressed into becoming a God. I wonder if these were some of the doctrinal disputes amongst Mormons].

Prophets and Apostles are appointed servants required to keep its membership in a unity of doctrine and faith [in LDS theology, the scriptures are not good enough to keep this unity]. New doctrines and creeds of uninspired men were introduced into the Church [Joseph Smith introduced many new doctrines not taught in the Bible or his Book of Mormon]. Many of the clergy, some of whom now cast doubt on the existence of God, questioning the divinity of the Savior, and denying the truthfulness of the Bible [the same could be said about the Mormons. They cast doubt on the existence of only one God. They

also question the divinity of Jesus and Heavenly Father when they teach that they were not always God. And Joseph Smith denied the truthfulness of the Bible so he felt he had to create an inspired version of the King James Translation. Fortunately he did not live to complete his project].

88 - Judas was an Apostle.

89 - Six of the original Twelve Apostles selected by Joseph Smith were excommunicated. The Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon left the church. Three of Joseph Smith's counselors fell -- one even helped plot his death. [this was major apostasy in the early LDS Church. There would be more when Joseph Smith was killed and many Mormons rejected the leadership of Brigham Young].

The Lord strengthened the faith of the early Apostles by pointing out Judas as a traitor (Matthew 26:23-25; Luke 13:21-26) [the Mormon Jesus did not do the same for the LDS Church].

Yes, within the [LDS] Church today there are tares among the wheat and wolves within the flock. They wear the habiliments of the priesthood (Conference Report, April 1949, p. 163). The wolves amongst our flock are more numerous and devious today than when President J. Reuben Clark made this statement [this is major apostasy in the LDS Church. According to Joseph Smith, the wheat inherit eternal life as a God and the tares are burned - see D&C 101: 65-66].

Not only are there apostates within our midst, but there are also apostate doctrines that are sometimes taught in our classes and from our pulpits and that appear in our publications. And these apostate precepts of men cause our people to stumble [I wish the LDS Church would identify these apostate doctrines and gospel principles].

90 - to publish differences we may think we have with the leaders of the church, to create strife and division, is a sure road to apostasy [this is humorous. To publish an apostate teaching from a leader or an official LDS Church manual or magazine is a sure road to apostasy?].

The Lord has stated that His Church will never again be taken from the earth because of apostasy (D&C 138:44) [the Lord never told his early disciples he would remove the church in the first place].

There has been individual apostasy in the past; it is going on now, and there will be an ever-increasing amount in the future. While we cannot save all the flock from being deceived, we should, without compromising our doctrine, strive to save as many as we can [this would explain why some many Mormons are in disagreement over if Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and whether or not Heavenly Father is an exalted man. See the Basic Beliefs section of this website. You will find examples of apostasy in the LDS Church].

- 91 - in the scriptures there are set forth three phases of the gathering of Israel.
(a) to Zion, which is America.
(b) return of the Ten Lost Tribes from the north (D&C 133).
(c) Jews to Palestine.

[Mormon leaders now teach that gathering to America is no longer in force].

- 92 - it has become common practice to identify only one of (Jacob's) twelve sons, Judah, with the family designation, Israelite, because they have maintained their separate identity (This Nation Shall Endure, pp. 133-134) [maybe common practice only amongst the Latter-day Saints. But its odd though; it teaches Joseph Smith was a pure Ephraimite. And another training manual says Joseph Smith was a descendant of Lehi through Manasseh. See <https://www.lds.org/manual/book-of-mormon-student-study-guide/2-nephi-3?lang=eng>

- 92 - discernment comes by prayer and living the commandments of God [Joseph Smith said you could discern whether you saw a good or evil angel, not by his message, but rather by offering to shaking his hand].

- 93 - someday we will all speak a common language - maybe the pure Adamic language. Then it may be a little easier for us to convey our feelings [I wonder when Adam's language became unpure]. A miracle is recorded of a circle of light which guided Flora Amussen across a dark field.

- 94 - there is great affinity for the Jews by the Mormons. Joseph Smith was martyred for his testimony in 1844 [but he was not in jail for his faith in Jesus Christ]. In 1846 our people had to leave the United States in exodus because of the threat of annihilation [the Mormons had brought this upon themselves for their great apostasy - see the book "Who Are Latter-day Saints" for a deeper discussion].

We settled in a desert region ... there we developed our land of promise. We can empathize with the suffering of the Jews, for we have co-suffered with them [this statement is preposterous. Millions of Jews were killed in the second world war and they have endured persecution for thousands of years].

95 - Joseph Smith only prayed for the children of Judah to return to their land (D&C 109:60-64) [I wonder why he did not pray for the other tribes to return to their land]. Passover season in 1836 was March 27. Joseph Smith dispatched Orson Hyde to dedicate the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews. Then it says Joseph Smith and leaders of the church sent Orson Hyde and John E. Page to dedicate the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews. Elder Page did not complete the journey but Elder Hyde went atop the Mount of Olives.

Jerusalem was the land of his (Hyde's) fathers. The land was again dedicated by President George A. Smith in 1873.

96 - we knew that kings of the earth would be inspired to look with a friendly eye, as Brother Hyde prayed on that visit to the Holy Land, that the powers of the earth would look with a friendly eye upon the gathering of Judah. President Wilford Woodruff made a remarkable prophecy and statement - You are the royal chosen seed, and the God of your father's house has kept you distinct as a nation for eighteen hundred years. Then he concludes by saying the time is not far distant when the rich men of the Jews will be called upon to use their abundant wealth to gather the dispersed of Judah and purchase the ancient dwelling places of their fathers in and about Jerusalem and rebuild the holy city and temple ("The Jews Return To Palestine In Fulfillment of Prophecy", Washington D.C. Stake Conference, March 3 1957) [I wonder how Mr. Woodruff is able to think these rich men are not from all Israelite tribes who are seeking to acquire all lands across Palestine and not only in and around Jerusalem. This was not a selective return to Palestine for a specific tribe of Israel. It was for everyone who was a descendant of Jacob].

97 - there are no people in the world who understand the Jews like the Mormons [but its the Jews who do not understand the Mormon belief that Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God].

97-98 - we share a common belief in prophets ... there are many other doctrinal and social similarities (This Nation Shall Endure, p. 131) [if Mormons lived in Israel in the Old Testament times, the Jews would stone them for writing and teaching the things they do in Gospel Principles. They would especially stone Joseph Smith for teaching a false god].

98-99 - great conflict before the Christ comes ... that at least two prophets will be raised up among them [the Jews]; that they will make predictions before Christ comes. I have no doubt but what these prophets will be assigned by the leadership of the priesthood, because the Lord's house is a house of order ("The Jews Return To Palestine In Fulfillment of Prophecy", Washington D.C. Stake Conference, March 3 1957).

99 - the British nation is playing a great part in making these promises come true. They [the Jews] will have their wars with outside nations. They [the Jews] will have their prophets (Revelation 11) [this is an interesting teaching. Tie this in with what is taught earlier. It seems that Mr. Benson is teaching God would raise of two Jewish prophets who are Mormons and these 2 prophets will be slain and resurrected in the future].

Christ will appear to them and the Mount of Olives will cleave in twain (Zechariah 14:4-5).

100 - it was revealed to Joseph Smith that Shiloh is the Messiah (Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 50:24; This Nation Shall Endure, p. 139) [in the Bible, this verse reads, "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob".

The Joseph Smith Translation inserts a lot more - "And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die, and go unto my fathers; and I go down to my grave with joy. The God of my father Jacob be with you, to deliver you out of affliction in the days of your bondage; for the Lord hath visited me, and I have obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of my loins, the Lord God will raise up a righteous branch out of my loins; and unto thee, whom my father Jacob hath named Israel, a prophet; (not the Messiah who is called Shilo;) and this prophet shall deliver my people out of Egypt in the days of thy bondage".

The JST has thirty eight verses in chapter 50. So Joseph did extra translation and insertion.

Joseph Smith opened a new gospel dispensation - the last and greatest of all gospel dispensations [supposedly greater than that of Jesus. This takes hero-worship to the extremes]. Joseph Smith was among the noble and great ones (Abraham 3:22-23).

101 - Joseph Smith occupied a prominent place of honor and distinction, he unquestionably helped in the planning and execution of the great work of the Lord. Joseph Smith gave an continues to give attention to important matters here on the earth even today from the realms above [hero-worship to the extra. They even wrote a song about him - Praise to the Man - where he is said to be mingling with the Gods in heaven].

The first vision of Joseph Smith is bedrock theology to the church. You should always bear testimony to the truth of the First Vision. Some LDS members say that it really is not important whether or not Joseph Smith actually saw God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. What matters, they claim, is that he thought he did. That is preposterous! (Salt Lake City, Utah, May 20 1984) [I wonder if Mr. Benson would have the same statement for those Mormons who do not feel the Book of Mormon is a historical document].

102 - the Lord's mouthpiece and prophet ... received his authority through a line of prophets. Joseph Smith was ordained by Peter, James, and John. Joseph Smith was in Liberty Jail, incarcerated upon trumped-up charges [earlier it said he was martyred for his testimony, but he was not in jail for his faith in Jesus Christ].

103 - Joseph Smith went willingly to his death. Joseph Smith was going like a lamb to the slaughter. Joseph Smith died great in the eyes of God and his people. He is honored as the greatest countryman around the world, without a peer [Many Mormons do not know the entire truth about the murder of their prophet and leader - see "The Untold Story of the Death of Joseph Smith" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvSo0ate4tM&feature=related>].

104 - God condescends to come to earth and to introduce His beloved Son (God, Family, Country, p. 31) [Bruce R. McConkie also taught God condescended to come to earth when Jesus was born]. Joseph Smith was slain as a martyr to the truth [but he was not killed for his faith in Jesus Christ. Then angry mob killed him for another reason]. Joseph stands as the head of this dispensation; the greatest of all dispensations. He will stand as the head throughout the eternities to come. Vision of the Father and the Son to the boy prophet. The greatest dispensation. Earth is about six thousand years old.

105 - God has saved for the final inning some of His strongest children. Gather the elect into a place prepared (Moses 7:62; Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, p. 79). Now is the great day of the devil's power.

106 - holy places such as temples, wards (chapels), our homes, and stakes of Zion will be a place of refuge when God's wrath is poured out. We must be guided by personal revelation and the counsel of the living prophet so we will not be deceived [but Joseph Smith deceived people when he taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God].

107 - the parable of the Ten Virgins is used by the Lord to indicate who, among church members, will stand when He appears (D&C 45:56; Come Unto Christ, pp. 115-116) [it seems like 50% of the Mormons will be shut out of the wedding feast]. The Saints in the early days were assured that Zion would be established in Jackson County, but look at what their unfaithfulness cost them in bloodshed and delay [many Latter-day Saints would blame the non-Mormons instead of their own sin].

Once our liberties are lost, only blood will bring them back [this does not seem to be the teaching of Jesus in the scriptures]. The LDS Church has more persecutions to endure (Conference Report, April 1944, p. 116). The great destructive force ... the abomination of desolation is related to discovering the secret to thermonuclear reaction [but the Bible refers to the desolation of abomination standing, not exploding - "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place ..."].

108 - the earth was cleansed by water in Noah's day. Only in our day it will be cleansed by fire. Christ will appear on the Mount of Olives. The mountain will cleave in twain during this last great struggle in which Judah will participate. This is one of the signs of the times in preparation for the second coming of the Master [mention of only the tribe of Judah being involved is not implied in the Bible].

Latter-day Saints have been given custody of the gospel of salvation.

108-109 - long night of Christian apostasy. Men under oppressive tyranny and shackled by chains of false priestly tradition [like Mormons under the false tradition of celebrating Christmas on December 25?].

109 - religious and political freedom began in England. Once a man's rights became guaranteed by the political institutions that would serve him, the time became propitious for Joseph Smith to be sent on the world scene and for the kingdom of God to be restored. Men owe a debt of gratitude to Great Britain and those human instruments who provided that first flicker of freedom's holy light ... which made the restoration of the fulness of the gospel possible (This Nation Shall Endure, p. 5). Before the gospel could again shine forth its resplendent light, religious and political freedom first had to be restored [this is opposite to the way the New Testament Church spread the gospel when much of the world was controlled by the Roman Empire - which persecuted Christians].

A war was fought for the independence and by God's intervention, victory was achieved (1 Nephi 13:16-19) [the LDS Church also uses this chapter to make a reference to Christopher Columbus]. Time for that "stone cut out without hands" to be restored (Daniel 2:34).

110 - a prophet of God was sent to this nation. This occurred in the year 1805, only sixteen years after the ratification of the Constitution [it seems Joseph was a prophet before he was born]. Joseph Smith was troubled because of the 'tumult of opinions' about which church was right [it seems Joseph had more faith in a church than in the Bible]. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is, as Daniel prophesied, a spiritual kingdom cut out of the mountain without hands (Daniel 2:45) [this is how Mormons interpret that passage]. Only the LDS have authority and power to restore ordinances and keys lost by apostasy (Conference Report, April 1980, Ensign, May 1980, p. 32) [but Joseph Smith taught that the Apostle John would remain on earth until Jesus comes again. D&C 7:6 says, "Yea, he has undertaken a greater work; therefore I will make him as flaming fire and a ministering angel; he shall minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation who dwell on the earth. Some Mormons have also mentioned that the three Nephite disciples also remained on earth].

Joseph went to a grove a trees near his father's house. Another place says on his father's farm.

111 - Joseph was to learn that Christ established the Church in former times when He was here on earth [it seemed he did not learn this truth from the Bible]. Its members were called Saints [the term 'Saint' with a capital s is not used in the Bible or the Book of Mormon]. Revelation ceased. There was an apostasy. Joseph Smith established the true Church of Christ again upon the earth [Mormons, as Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-Day Adventists, believe they are the only true Church on the earth].

The Father and the Son appeared and stood in the air [the same is true of when the angel Moroni supposedly appeared in 1823. Have you ever seen the movie 'Manitou'? An evil spirit takes possession of a body and it moves along, not touching the ground. Odd]. It was predicted in scripture that the Lord would restore His church in these latter days prior to His second coming [this is how Mormons interpret the scripture].

112 - Jesus is the creator of this earth [Mormon theology says that Joseph Smith, Adam, and others also helped to form this earth. It also teaches that Jesus created other earths with other humans - these are supposedly your other spirit brothers and sisters. Let's do some number crunching. Assume ten worlds, 6 billion people each. 60 billion total. These represent the two thirds that came and received a mortal body. That means that 20 billion children of Heavenly Mother and Father rebelled and are destined for hell]. And these are sample numbers for only ten earths.

The appearance of Father and Son was not a product of Joseph's imaginings. Jesus came to Joseph as a witness of His own resurrection [it seems Joseph did not really believe in the resurrection unless he first saw. He also wrote that some of the original Mormon elders gave a testimony that "Jesus lives" after claiming to see him at the right hand of God and hearing Heavenly Father's voice (D&C 76:19-23). Their testimony was not based on faith, but rather on sight and sound that they said they experienced].

Accounts of the First Vision differ because he wrote or explained it under different circumstances to different audiences, including non-members. At no time did Joseph reveal everything he learned in the First Vision. Should we reject the testimony of Paul's vision because Luke's report appears contradictory in minor detail [The earliest known account of the first vision was written in 1831-32 in Joseph Smith's own handwriting. This was the version made public by Paul Cheesman in 1965, published later that same year by Jerald and Sandra Tanner in Joseph Smith's Strange Account of the First Vision.

This account had been in the hands of LDS leaders for over 130 years, hidden away in their vaults – presumably because it differs so greatly from the official version. In this account, Smith claimed to be 16 years old and that he already knew that all churches were wrong from reading the Bible. Joseph sought forgiveness, and it was Jesus alone who visited him and forgave his sins. We are left, then, with various differing stories of this important event. Joseph never did tell "but one story" of the first vision; he told several, as already shown by the various published statements of early LDS leaders. There is no way to tell, then, if any of the details of the vision really happened. Was it one angel or several who visited Joseph? What was the identity of the heavenly visitor to Joseph – Jesus and God, Jesus alone, Peter (JD 6:29), Nephi (Times & Seasons 3:753; 1851 POGP, pg.41; Millennial Star 3:53, 71), or Moroni?
- source: <http://www.mrm.org/first-vision>].

113 - many have misrepresented our doctrines.

114 - many great truths had been lost because of the absence of revelation. By nature man wants to find God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth [this is against the teaching of the Bible - Ephesians 2:3 - "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"].

- 115 - His Church has been reestablished among men with all the spiritual gifts enjoyed anciently. I bless you with increased desire to flood the earth with the Book of Mormon [I wonder if Mormons are flooding the other earths with equivalent Books of Mormon; which teach an extraterrestrial Jesus]. The Church and kingdom of God has no fear of the truth.
- 116 - time is on the side of God's prophet (God, Family, Country, p. 29) [time was not on the side of Joseph Smith. He lived just long enough to teach some false things about Heavenly Father - that he was not from everlasting to everlasting and that he was a man who became a God. This would forever mark him as a false prophet to those who know the truth].
- 117 - the truths of the gospel restored to the earth through Joseph Smith are in very deed the truths of heaven. These truths will always be consistent with the discovery of any new truths (Conference Report, April 1958, Improvement Era, June 1958, p. 434).
- 118 - to bring the truth to light is our challenge (Title of Liberty, pp. 1-2) [but no LDS prophet had the courage to sponsor archaeological digs to support their teaching about the Hill Cumorah]. Knowing truth brings freedom.
- 119 - truth makes men and nations free and keeps them free (The Red Carpet, p. 282). Truth is always consistent.
- 120 - it is truth that makes men and nations free. No discovery of the future will ever be in conflict with the teachings of the gospel [but you have many conflicting Mormon teachings on whether Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden].
- 121 - we covenant to live the law of consecration. The law of consecration is a celestial law.
- 122 - two separate groups of Saints have fully implemented the law of consecration; those of the city of Enoch and the Nephites. Equality under the united order is not economic and social levelling. The fundamental principle of this system is private ownership of property.
- 123 - consecration and stewardship and the contribution of one's surpluses into the bishops storehouse [this is not biblical teaching]. Father, Son, and all holy beings abide this celestial law [I wonder if the Mormon Jesus and Holy Spirit gave their surpluses to their bishop]. It will be mandatory for all Saints to live the law in its fulness to receive a celestial inheritance.

Joseph Smith said the whole of America, from north to south, is Zion (Teachings, p. 362). This is a land choice above all other lands. A Book of Mormon prophet designated this hemisphere as good (Jacob 5:25-26) [Verses 24-26 say, "And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard said again unto his servant: Look hither, and behold another branch also, which I have planted; behold that I have nourished it also, and it hath brought forth fruit. And he said unto the servant: Look hither and behold the last. Behold, this have I planted in a good spot of ground; and I have nourished it this long time, and only a part of the tree hath brought forth tame fruit, and the other part of the tree hath brought forth wild fruit; behold, I have nourished this tree like unto the others. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard said unto the servant: Pluck off the branches that have not brought forth good fruit, and cast them into the fire". There is no mention of a western hemisphere. For more in depth analysis of Jacob chapter 5, see <http://ldslearning.org/lds-jacob-5-section.htm>].

124 - we must worship the God [Jesus Christ] of this land or be swept off (Conference Report, October 1979, Ensign, November 1979, p. 33).

Part 2 - The Church - Church History

127 - we must see to it that all our publications and writing, especially official and semi-official publications, build faith and testimony. As watchmen in Zion, we have the responsibility to see that all our writings are doctrinally sound and historically accurate.

128 - so-called scholars seek to convince us that Mary was not a virgin at the time of Jesus' conception. They would have us believe Joseph was his physical father [ask your Mormon friend if Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born. Ask this Mormon for a definition of virgin].

129 - it was not for me (for Brigham Young) to question whether Joseph was dictated by the Lord at all times and under all circumstances (Journal of Discourses, 4:297) [it seems Mr. Young always believed everything Joseph said].

130 - only write that which increases faith and builds testimony (1 Nephi 6:5).

131 - Joseph Smith was the second greatest prophet that lived on earth [hero worship].

132 - Joseph Smith has done more for the salvation of men in this world than anyone who ever lived in it, except the Master (D&C 135:3) [hero worship. That would explain the hymn "Praise to the Man", which has Joseph mingling with the Gods in heaven]. He stands at the head of the greatest dispensation of all time. There is no satisfactory substitute for the scriptures and words of the Lord's living oracle. Whenever God has his representatives on the earth, there is no revelation and new scripture (D&C 68:3-4) [the last 'revelation' and 'scripture' was written in 1978; known as Declaration 2].

133 - always the words of the living prophets are of the most vital concern to the people. As we come closer to the Lord's second coming, you can expect that as the people of the world become more wicked, the prophet will be less popular with them [as of the October 2013 General Conference, the number of Mormons is about 15 million, while the world's population is over 7 billion. It is not a question of the Mormon prophet being less popular. For the most part, current President Monson is not even known to non-Mormons who live in the United States].

The Lord refers to the First Presidency as the "highest council of the Church" (D&C 107:80) [there was no First Presidency in the Bible, Book of Mormon, or Pearl of Great Price]. The Lord says, "Whosoever receiveth me, receiveth those, the First Presidency, who I have sent" (D&C 112:20; Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet, 1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year, BYU) [the 'Lord' did not say this in the Bible, Book of Mormon, or Pearl of Great Price].

134 - sometimes what Mormons read in church publications does not square with the truth [I agree with this. There is much apostasy in LDS publications. The best example is the 1997 version of Gospel Principles]. The Lord is letting the wheat and tares mature. The devil is trying to deceive the very elect [this apostasy is evident when you read LDS training manuals].

The prophet is the Lord's mouthpiece and the only man who can speak for the Lord today. Let his inspired words be a basis for evaluating the counsel of all lesser authorities [ask your Mormon if he has ever heard an LDS President speak non-inspiring words]. The words of current LDS Presidents have an even more immediate importance than those of dead prophets. When speaking under the influence of the Holy Ghost, his words are scripture (D&C 68:4) [ask your Mormon if he has ever heard an LDS President not speak under the influence of the Holy Ghost at General Conference].

The LDS Presidents will never fall. The words of a living prophet must take precedence (God, Family, Country, pp. 339-340).

135 - in times past, Heavenly Father sent prophets to warn nations of their imminent ruin if they would not repent. These warnings were provided before their destruction [which prophets were sent to warn Canada and Japan and when?]. A prophet is responsible for giving a message of warning to the wicked. A prophet declares a message from God, not fearing any social repercussion (Conference Report, October 1981, Ensign, November 1981, p. 61) [when was the last time an LDS prophet spoken about homosexuality or abortion at General Conference?].

136 - the Lord says of Joseph Smith, "Thou shall give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you" [D&C 21:4] [it is a false Lord who tells people to believe in the false God Joseph Smith taught - a god who was not from everlasting to everlasting and a god who was once a man who progressed into becoming a God].

Brigham Young said, "I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call scripture" (Journal of Discourses, 13:95; Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet, 1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year, BYU) [the LDS Church, in a clear attempt to distance herself from this statement by Brigham Young, does not make public this Journal of Discourses on her publications' website. It is safe to say that most Mormons would reject some sermons giving by their second President].

Beware of those who would pit the dead prophets against the living prophets, for the living prophets always take precedence. The Lord will never allow the LDS President to lead people astray [he Bible is the greatest weapon Christians can use to clearly show how LDS Presidents have led the people astray. God is God from everlasting to everlasting. The man-become-god Joseph Smith taught is a false God. Unfortunately for him, he will suffer God's wrath on Judgment Day. Mormon leaders have also taught their members they can become Gods and Goddesses too, with their own spirit children on other worlds they create. These too will suffer the same fate].

137 - the Lord will bless you to do what a prophet tells you and it is wrong. The Lord will never let his mouthpiece lead the people astray (Conference Report, October 1960, p. 78) [the Lord destroyed those in the Old Testament who obeyed the false words of a false prophet]. If there ever is a conflict between earthly knowledge and the words of a prophet, you stand with the prophet, and you will be blessed and time will vindicate you. Seek out the best books ... alongside them must be the words of the Presidents of the Church [but you will find that Latter-day Saints do not want to accept certain teachings in Gospel Doctrine or Doctrines of Salvation].

The Lord said of the President of the Church, "His word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth" (D&C 21:5). These books make up ... the Lord's library -- namely the standard works and the various volumes that contain the words of the different Presidents of the Church [its unfortunate that the current LDS Church is removing key statements from these older volumes. They are attempting to hide the earlier teachings].

138 - those who would remove prophets from politics would take God out of government. Two groups of people who have difficulty in following the prophet - one group is those who view his words as opinion (Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet, 1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year, BYU) [this is safe to say about most Mormons who do not accept what they hear at General Conference as the truth. Elder Harold B. Lee said, "It is not to be thought that every word spoken by the General Authorities is inspired, or that they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost in everything they write. I don't care what his position is, if he writes something or speaks something that goes beyond anything that you can find in the standard church works" (Stand Ye In Holy Places, pp. 162-3, "The Prophet, Seer, and Revelator," Address delivered to seminary and institute teachers, BYU, July 8, 1964. So Mormons are told to accept and not accept the words spoken at General Conference].

139 - freedom, liberty, and righteousness exalts a nation. The prophet tells us what we need to know, not always what we want to know [some Mormons do not want to believe that Joseph Smith taught God was once a man who became a God].

140 - the LDS President stands closest to the fountain of living waters (Jeremiah 2:13; 1 Nephi 11:15) [these passages have no reference to an LDS President]. Only one spokesman to his church. God will not allow the President to lead his church astray [an infamous Mormon mantra]. Every generation has need of the ancient scripture, plus the current scripture from the living prophet. [the last President was Mr. Kimball. What scripture did he write?]. Carefully read his words in Church periodicals [but some Mormons reject these words are either opinions or uninspired].

141 - definition of prophet, seer, revelator. The prophet's words are to be received as if from the mouth of the Lord himself [but some Mormons reject these words are either opinions or uninspired. Take for example these words: "He [mankind] dies in consequence of the sin of Adam" (Teachings of Presidents of the Church - Joseph F. Smith, chapter 10: Jesus Christ Redeems All Mankind from Temporal Death)].

- 142 - some Mormons rejected the prophet when he opposed federal aid to education and asked for right-to-work laws (An Enemy Hath Done This, p. 311). The Lord will never permit his prophet to lead this Church astray (An Enemy Hath Done This, p. 318) [but Joseph Smith led people astray when he taught God was once a man who became a God]. The Apostles took their place in council according to their seniority.
- 144 - the LDS need to be watchful of incorrect and unsound doctrines. Preserve historical accounts otherwise you run the risk of sending false historical information into the future to your children. An evangelical minister is a patriarch. Those who don't give heed to the words of the prophets and the apostles shall be cut off from among the people (D&C 1:14) [but you will be cut off if you follow Joseph Smith and worship a man who is said to have become a god].
- 146 - the living oracles are obligated to give counsel to this people on any subject which is vital to their welfare.
- 147 - personal contact is the key to converting the inactive member.
- 148 - we adopted the Boy Scout program as part of our program.
- 149 - the Scout program is not optional.
- 151 - existing stakes should work tirelessly for full stakehood.
- 153 - we attach to most of our chapels a cultural hall so that our youth may have a place to dance. Avoid dancing that de-moralizes standards in the sacred meeting place.
- 156 - children should attend Sunday School every week.
- 160 - correlation. There is great safety in witnesses. This is also true of the review of our lesson materials and programs. It is through the eyes of two or three and many more that the curricula and programs are prepared, reviewed, and approved; and because of this progress, we are, as a Church, more doctrinally sound and better correlated than ever before in our history. [but many Mormon teachings in their training manuals and official magazines are scripturally unsound. Recall the teaching above by Elder Harold B. Lee, "It is not to be thought that every word spoken by the General Authorities is inspired, or that they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost in everything they write. I don't care what his position is, if he writes something or speaks something that goes beyond anything that you can find in the standard church works". The best example is the 1997 version of Gospel Principles. This book really goes beyond the standard works of the LDS Church. It even teaches about the false god of Joseph Smith - that he is said to have once

been a man who became a God and that he and his wife, also a Goddess, went to their own world and populated it with billions of spirit children].

- 161 - families joyfully together in time and throughout eternity [see the website <http://ldslearning.org/irr-mormon-families-together-too-good-to-be-true.pdf>]
- 162 - every ward leader should complete the four generation program as stressed by the church. Keep a journal and write our personal histories and those of our ancestors, particularly those who belong to the first four generations of our pedigree (Conference Report, October 1978, Ensign, November 1978, p. 30).
- 163 - some youth are driven away from doing work on genealogy; they insist that they must drink 'milk' when they are ready for the 'meat' [this rationale is used by some Mormons for withholding certain teachings from non-members until a later date, which after baptism may prove to be too late]. Include choice memories in the journal (book of remembrance).
- 164 - help them gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom.
- 165 - the only true church on earth (D&C 1:30). His church -- it bears his name.
- 166 - new editions of the scriptures have been published [which?]. Mention of execution of its prophet (Joseph Smith). None will be neutral in their appraisal of its [the LDS Church's] fruit (Conference Report, April 1980, Ensign, May 1980, p. 33) [the teaching manuals of the church are signs of her fruit].
- 167 - exalt people through the application of the simple principles of the gospel. [the 1997 version of Gospel Principles is a good example]. Only the gospel will bring joy [but LDS theology teaches that Adam and Eve only experienced joy after they disobeyed God in the Garden].
- 168 - the kingdom of which Daniel prophesied (Daniel 2:44) is said to be the LDS Church.
- 169 - growth of the mustard seed compared to church growth. All the efforts to destroy the work--even the murder of the prophet Joseph Smith and his brother. This LDS kingdom should never be destroyed [but LDS theology teaches that the church which Jesus established was destroyed after he ascended to heaven - see the 1997 version of Gospel Principles, p. 105].
- 169-170 - with impeccable logic, Jesus asked how can it be my church if it is not called in my name? [Mormons seem to think a church must have the phrase "Jesus Christ" in the name to be His church].

- 170 - the LDS Church is destined to fill the entire earth. Mention of the "Book of Commandments". Jesus gave them this to publish unto the inhabitants of the earth. The kingdom of God will not fail; it shall not be destroyed [but, as seen above, the 1997 Gospel Principles manual said that the church of Christ was destroyed].
- 172 - we have been assured by the Lord that the kingdom of God, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will remain on earth to prepare the way and meet the kingdom of heaven when the Lord comes again.
- 173 - Zion must arise and put on her beautiful garments (D&C 84:14) [this verse says, "Which Abraham received the priesthood from Melchizedek, who received it through the lineage of his fathers, even till Noah". Nothing about garments here. They meant chapter 82 instead].
- 174 - mission of the church ... is to redeem the dead.
- 175 - the LDS Church should be able to support herself amidst a time when the wrath and judgments of God will be poured out on all nations (D&C 78:13-14).
- 176 - the church will continue its opposition to error, falsehood, and immorality [but the LDS Church has not eliminated much error in her various teaching manuals and magazines. They are filled with many contradictory statements too]. The mission of the church ... make unmistakably clear the pathway to exaltation [the LDS Church seems to remove the spotlight on one's potential to become a God or Goddess, even though the 1997 version of Gospel Principles says, "All good things come from God. Everything that he does is to help his children become like him—a god". The removed the words 'a god' in the latest version].
- 177 - a message of salvation and exaltation [according to the May 1998 edition of Ensign magazine, there are six different meaning for salvation]. Only true message and only true church on earth. Father's presence is in the highest degree of glory in the celestial kingdom.
- 178 - grand mission ... redeeming the dead. Every member should have faith and courage to set a date to have someone prepared to be taught by the missionaries [this setting up of appointments for missionaries to teach your friend or relative instead of you teaching them is not the method devised by God].

- 179 - long standing counsel of the LDS Church is to have one year's worth of food, clothing, and where possible, fuel [is this so that you can lend to a friend in need or solely to hoard it for yourself and family, or both?] Regular temple worship. Revelation occurs in the holy temples of the Lord [I wonder what was the last revelation the LDS Church received in their temple?]. Mission of the church ... redeeming the dead.
- 179 - heavenly messengers came to restore priesthood and keys and to open the final dispensation.
- 180 - Mormon Church sends missionaries in the world, particularly to Christian countries.
- 181 - the commission to take the gospel to every nation ... is one of the signs by which believers will recognize the nearness of the Savior's return to earth [Jesus gave this commission almost 2,000 years ago].
- 182 - the priesthood conferred upon the male missionary is the power of God to perform baptisms, confirmations, and administrations of the sick [female Mormons cannot perform any of these. This is not true of Christ's true Church].
- 183 - missionaries should declare that desolation shall come upon the wicked (D&C 63:37).
- 184 - their words would be ... scripture unto the people (D&C 68:4).
- 184-185 - missionaries must warn the world of impending judgments (God, Family, Country, pp. 47-48).
- 185 - the Twelve have the keys to open doors [this is true of all Christians, male and female. The Mormon Church is highly institutionalized]. Proselyting the gospel in nations of the world only occurs when a member of the First Presidency or the Twelve dedicates the land for that purpose [this is unbiblical. Jesus gave this authority to all believers]. We do not proselyte where the laws of that country prohibit the practice [this is contrary to the way the early Christians evangelized]. Missionary work -- the preaching of the gospel -- has been the major activity of the true church of Christ whenever the gospel has been upon the earth.
- 186 - the message of the restored gospel is for all people.
- 187 - no power on earth or in hell can stop this [LDS] work [but the 1997 version of Gospel Principles says the church that Jesus established was destroyed]. The first vision is the greatest event since the resurrection. Jesus is the God of this world.

- 188 - reference to the phrase 'Mormon Church'. First missionary journey by Samuel Harrison Smith. He travelled 25 miles on the first day.
- 190 - young women can have a positive influence in motivating young men to serve full time missions.
- 191 - acceptance by local people to the missionaries of their own nationality is superior to the reception received by non-nationals.
- 192 - mission, marriage, education is the proper order to follow. Missionaries should meet and teach with the Book of Mormon [this might be stale advice because many LDS teachings are not even found in the Book of Mormon]. Start a savings account for your mission.
- 193 - you must have a testimony that Joseph Smith is a prophet. The United States and Canada are the host nations from which the gospel is to go to other nations [odd how they exclude Europe and Australia].
- 194 - proclaim the message of the restoration.
- 195 - start a savings account for your future mission when you are 9, 10, or 11 years of age.
- 196 - Mormons come through Abrahamic lineage [really? The Religion 430-431 - Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual says that they are predominantly of the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh].
- 197 - give me a young man who is an Eagle Scout.
- 198 - missionary service requires great faith [and you suppose an 18-year-old male missionary has great faith?].
- 200 - it is vital that missionaries maintain ... and have a reputation as great proselyting elders.
- 201 - we are to take the gospel to every person - without exception, without excuse, without rationalization, we are to go [but earlier it said the LDS Church will not go into a country, like Saudi Arabia, which forbids proselyting. Jesus did not make any exceptions to the Great Commission].
- 202 - teach correct principles to missionaries and you will bless their lives forever [but false principles are taught in the Gospel Principles manual]. A missionary should avoid rock music.

- 203 - the Book of Mormon is a marvelous missionary tool. The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use in our missionary work. It shows Joseph Smith was a prophet [many important Mormon teachings are not even found in the book]. The Book of Mormon is the great finder of the golden contact (Do you want to learn more of Christ?) [one learns more about Jesus from the Bible, not the Book of Mormon].
- 204 - the Lord himself provided the Book of Mormon as his chief witness. Convince the Jew and Gentile and Lamanite of the truthfulness of our message [the current LDS Church is unclear on who the Lamanite is]. The purpose of missionaries in the mission field is to save souls and baptize converts [female LDS missionaries cannot baptize]. The Book of Mormon is the greatest single tool which God has given to convert the world (Conference Report, October 1984; Ensign, November 1984, 7) [this 'greatest' tool lacks many of the current LDS Church teachings].
- 206 - we are not obligated to answer every objection.
- 208 - 'every member is a missionary' slogan was a revelation of David O. McKay.
- 210 - I encourage you not only to read the biblical account of Christ's resurrection, but to read and share with a nonmember the Book of Mormon account of Christ's personal manifestation to those in America following His resurrection [its odd that Mr. Benson omits mention of the supposed destruction in 'America' which occurred at the same time. About sixteen cities were destroyed and countless people were killed by earthquakes and storms. There was only one earthquake in the Bible and no one died as a result. Also, there is nothing in the Book of Mormon to indicate that the land is 'America'].
- 211 - we shall do missionary work only in the nations that permit it [this was not the method of the early church].
- 213 - the Council of the Twelve directs patriarchs in the church.
- 214 - young men should receive the patriarchal blessing under the influence of fasting and prayer. The priesthood is the power and authority to act in God's name [Mormon females don't have this power or authority over the devil].
- 215 - worthy boys twelve years old receive the priesthood by the laying on of hands [they have more power and authority than a more mature and spiritual LDS woman].
- 216-217 - the powers of heaven are the gifts of the Spirit which the Lord God Omnipotent gives to righteous priesthood holders.

- 217 - when one departs from principles of righteousness, the rights of the priesthood and the powers of heaven are withdrawn; hence the statement, "many are called, but few are chosen" (D&C 121:40) [if this is true, then it seems like a small proportion of LDS males still have these powers]. Provide a one year supply of essentials in case of disaster.
- 218 - the quorum is organized to help the father do his duty in the home. The slothful will not be counted worthy to stand. He that doeth not anything until he is commanded ... the same is damned (D&C 58:29).
- 219 - the power of priesthood brought this earth into existence. Let the world know something of the fruits of Mormonism (Conference Report, October 1955; Improvement Era, December 1955, 952) [LDS teaching manuals are a very good evidence of Mormonism's fruit]. A father must be an example of priesthood leadership.
- 220 - the quorum should become a young man's most important association next to his family.
- 221 - the priesthood is the government of God on this earth. You are youth of noble birthright (Hymns, 1985, no. 255, 'Carry On'; Conference Report, April 1986; Ensign, May 1986, 43).
- 222 - lust of your eyes - tv shows that are suggestive and lewd; magazines and books that are obscene and pornographic [I would include the teaching that one can become a god or goddess. This was one way how the devil was able to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden]. Don't listen to music that is degrading (Conference Report, April 1986; Ensign, May 1986, 45).
- 223 - the Aaronic Priesthood is not by oath and covenant whereas the Melchizedek Priesthood is [according to the Study Helps of the LDS Church's website, "An oath is a sworn affirmation to be true and faithful to one's promises. A covenant is a solemn promise between two parties. The Aaronic Priesthood is received by covenant alone. Melchizedek Priesthood holders receive the priesthood by unspoken oath as well as by covenant"].
- 224 - I don't believe that the Lord blesses his children with full happiness, if they are members of the church, unless they receive the priesthood. So much of the joy of this life and of eternity is tied up in priesthood (God, Family, Country, p. 192) [based on this teaching, Mormon women will never be fully happy, but at least their husbands will be].
- 224 - home teaching is inspired from its inception. It is a priesthood way of watching over the Saints. It is a sacred calling.

- 225 - Jesus brought to his followers salvation and exaltation [but not the Mormon version of exaltation to Godhood]. Home teaching is priesthood compassionate service. Each pair of home teachers should become personally involved with every child, youth, and adult in the family to whom they are assigned. The key to effectively working with the family is to be close to the father. I urge you to do the small things - example, know the names of all family members.
- 226 - regularly review pages 8 and 9 of the Melchizedek Priesthood Handbook for some excellent suggestions on how to be helpful to those you home teach. We strongly recommend that home teachers use the monthly message from the First Presidency printed in Ensign and the church's international magazines.
- 227 - your families need the continual strength of the Book of Mormon. Teach nothing but what the prophets teach [but Mormons do not accept all that their living prophet teaches]. Trust no one to be your teacher unless he keeps the commandments [but a mother and father cannot really tell if their home teachers keep the commandments].
- 228 - home teaching is a great priesthood program. Make your visit early in the month.
- 229 - don't assign more than three to five families or individuals to a pair of home teachers. Quorum leaders to conduct monthly home teaching interviews.
- 231 - most of our problems stem from a lack of loving and attentive shepherding.
- 232 - true shepherds ... the Lord has given responsibility to priesthood holders. Sisters have 'callings' of shepherding too [so they can shepherd without holding a priesthood but the men can hold shepherd with the priesthood?].
- 233 - a great amount of brethren who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood are not fully active.
- 234 - we are particularly concerned that new converts be integrated into full fellowship in the church [I hope all Christian churches would have this same concern].
- 235 - every boy should be a Scout. It is a spiritual program. Responsibility rests with stake presidencies and bishoprics. Scouting emphasizes observance of Sabbath.
- 236 - a Latter-day Saint boy who is living the boy scout oath would never break the Word of Wisdom, as we know it. He would not take into his body those things that destroy or weaken it [Coke and Pepsi destroys and weakens your teeth]. Scouting teaches love for the Constitution.

237 - LDS Church was the first to adopt scouting as a part of the youth program of the church.

238 - scouting is not an optional program. The planning of hikes and mountain trips on the weekends does not conform to LDS ideals ("Scouting Serves The Church", Improvement Era, September 1948, 558, 560) [I wonder if this same standard applies to adult Mormon males and females on Saturday].

239 - a Scout is taught a love of the Constitution.

240 - where scouting is available, please understand that this is not an optional program.

245 - temples are provided for protection against coming tribulation. Everything we learn in temples is based on the scriptures [not the Bible, Book of Mormon, or Pearl of Great Price].

246 - ordinances of the temple should be available to our people without extensive travel or great financial service.

246-247 - Salt Lake City's mountains and its temple is a fulfillment of Isaiah 2:2-3 [Isaiah was referring to Jerusalem, not Salt Lake City].

248 - on the spire of the temple stands a bronze replica of Moroni.

249 - open the doors of salvation to those souls who may be imprisoned in darkness in the world of spirits [who may be?]. Exaltation is a family matter. Jesus obtained the fulness of the priesthood of God by keeping all the commandments and obeying all the ordinances of the house of the Lord (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 308; "What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children About The Temple", Ensign, August 1985, 10) [this is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus did not perform any ordinances in the temple - no endowment, no sealings, no temple marriage, and no proxy work for the dead].

We build temples because God has commanded us to do so [the Jews were never commanded to build more than one temple. The early Christians were never commanded to build any temples. Christians are the temples of the Holy Spirit].

250 - the saints have been commanded to stand in holy places, such as this temple, in order to avoid the tribulations which are to come in the latter days. Jesus saying he had no place to lay his head may be a reference that there was no temple in Jerusalem which had not been desecrated. The temple is the most sacred spot on earth. The temple ceremony was given by a wise Heavenly

Father to help us become more Christlike [but Joseph Smith took parts of the temple ceremonies from Freemasonry]. The endowment was revealed by revelation. The instruction is given in symbolic language [which is not in the Standard Works of the LDS Church].

251 - temples are places of personal revelation [apparently Declaration #2 came from the temple too].

252 - Abraham sought his priesthood blessings. The temple will be a constant, visible symbol that God has not left man to grope in darkness. It is a place of revelation [this is what the Holy Spirit and the Bible is for. Christians do not need to travel to a physical temple]. Ordinances for sanctification are only administered in the temple [many Mormons will never be sanctified]. No member of the church can be perfected without the ordinances of the temple [this would mean that the early Christians and Jesus were not perfected because they did perform the temple ordinances].

254 - richest blessings known to men and women in this world are tied up with the sacred ordinances and blessings of the temples of God [this is not taught by the New Testament Church]. If you are isolated from the temple and cannot go, the Lord will in some way make up to you that which your lives merit (Conference Report, October 1955, Improvement Era, December 1955, 950, 952).

In the temple you will receive the key of the knowledge of God (Doctrine and Covenants 84:19)[this key is only obtained by men who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood. Mormon females do not get this key. Neither do male holders of the Aaronic Priesthood].

255 - temples are really the gateways to heaven. The temple is a house of revelation (Conference Report, April 1986, Ensign, May 1986, 78). Temple ordinances arm people with righteousness and endow them with the power of God in great measure [search the Bible for the word 'righteousness' to get the correct teaching]. The richest blessings are tied up with sacred temple ordinances (Conference Report, October 1952, Improvement Era, December 1952, 942).

256 - the temple is a symbol of all we hold dear. God bless Israel! [Mormons believe they are the Israel of God].

257 - Adam followed this order (of priesthood) and brought his posterity into the presence of God [Adam and Eve were evicted from God's presence when they disobeyed him. Adam's posterity never went back into God's presence like before]. When our children obey the Lord and go to the temple to receive their blessings and enter into the marriage covenant, they enter into the same order of the priesthood that God instituted in the beginning with

Father Adam [but Adam and Eve were not married in a temple].

Seek the blessings of the fathers as did Abraham by going to our Father's house [but there was no temple in Abraham's day]. Abraham's seed are lawful heirs to the priesthood (D&C 86:8-11; "What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children About The Temple", Ensign, August 1985, 9-10) [but only the tribe of Lehi held the priesthood in the Old Testament]. On April 3 1836, the Lord and three other heavenly beings appeared in the Kirtland Temple (D&C 110) [according to the introductory notes in the Book of Mormon, Moses, Elias, and Elijah are these three others].

258 - the temple will be an ever-present reminder that God intended the family to be eternal. Temple marriage [the Old Testament temple had nothing to do with marriage and eternal families].

259 - the Lord's desire is for every adult man and woman in the church to receive the ordinances of the temple [this is not biblical teaching. It is also not found in the Book of Mormon or Pearl of Great Price]. Children born to sealed parents mean they are born in the covenant - a birthright blessing to them is eternal parentage regardless of what happens to the parents, as long as the children remain worthy of the blessings (General Handbook of Instructions, p. 62; "Our Duty as Latter-day Saints", Springfield-Burke Virginia Chapel Dedication, October 15 1982) [an interesting teaching. Suppose you have children John and Peter. Their parents are Dick and Jane. If Dick and Jane divorce, John and Peter, if they remain worthy, have eternal parentage. But to whom? But suppose John and Peter don't remain worthy but their parents do. So they don't have eternal parents?].

The welfare program was inspired to bring the church to independence. The church must become wholly self-sufficient.

261 - donate the fasting money to assist any poor in the church. Surpluses or residue from consecrated properties should be kept in the hands of the bishop (D&C 51:13; Conference Report, April 1977, Ensign, May 1977, 82). The LDS Church is against taking food stamps. This nation is the Lord's base of operations in these last days (well, the Mormons are really proud of the United States. In the Bible, Israel is God's timepiece). Participating in the taking of food stamps is contributing to a problem leading this nation to financial insolvency.

263 - store at least one year supply of food, clothing, and fuel. Get out of debt as soon as you can. There is wisdom in having on hand a one year supply of food, clothing, and fuel (if possible), and in being prepared to defend our families and possessions. The LDS Church will come to the aid of the faithful father and mother if they are living the gospel and participating in the great welfare program of the church [other unfaithful Mormons will be

denied by their church]. For many years the leaders of the Mormon Church have recommended a one year supply of food, clothing, and fuel (if possible).

Part 3 - The Gospel in our Lives

271 - ... throughout the missions of Europe ... down to Mexico ... and throughout this land of Zion [some leaders believe the United States is Zion]. Man's nature is basically good.

272 - children of the same Father in spirit [Mormons teach that Heavenly Mother and Father, with bodies of flesh and bones, procreated children with bodies of spirit]. The gospel knows no race or color [see the web page [book-of-mormon-curse-of-dark-skin.htm](#)]. We are all brothers and sisters born of the same Father in the spirit.

273 - our brother Jesus the Christ.

277 - sexual immorality is the greatest temptation for the elders of Israel (see Journal of Discourses 8:55). Sexual impurity threatens the LDS Church from within (Gospel Doctrine, pp. 312-313).

277 - unchastity is next to murder (Alma 39:5). The growing crime of abortion often follows unchastity.

278 - if you commit adultery but don't repent, you should be cast out (excommunicated). Whatever weakens your reason or impairs the tenderness of your conscience ... that thing is sin to you how innocent it may seem in itself (Conference Report, October 1964, Improvement Era, December 1964, 1069).

279 - only murder and denying the Holy Ghost come ahead of illicit sexual relations. Fornication involves unmarried people, adultery is when one is married. Great nations have fallen when they became morally corrupt.

280 - there is a grave danger in building your premarital associations on a physical basis of necking, petting, and fornication. We are offspring of God. Every form of homosexuality is wrong.

281 - anytime one breaks a law of God, he pays a penalty in heartache, in sadness, in remorse, in lack of self-respect, and he removes himself from contact with the Spirit of God [but in LDS theology, Adam and Eve gained blessings when they broke the law of God in the Garden of Eden]. So garbled in values have our morals become that some youth would not dare take a cigarette but freely engage in petting. Both are wrong, but one is definitely more serious than the other (Conference Report, October 1964, Improvement Era, December 1964, 1069) [is petting more serious than breaking the Word of Wisdom when

there is no revelation against petting?].

282 - a woman's chastity is more priceless than life itself. Modesty in dress and language and deportment is a true mark of refinement and a hallmark of a virtuous Latter-day Saint woman ("To The Young Women of the Church", Ensign, November 1986, 83).

283 - I would like to say to you sisters, you girls, that when a man who is a real man starts looking for his companion for eternity, he does not want shopworn and damaged goods. He wants a girl who is clean and pure and lovely [so the LDS Church implies that only 'unreal' men will marry a Mormon lady who has lost her chastity].

A priesthood holder should not commit adultery nor do anything like it - this means ... homosexuality, self abuse [maybe this means masturbation].

285 - guilt and shame set in. We become fearful that our sins will be discovered. We must sneak and hide, lie and cheat [a similar thing happened to Adam and Eve when they sinned in the Garden of Eden. They felt shame and tried to hide from God].

286 - our economy is free. Don't put chains on our economic freedom [it is too late. The United States economy is burdened with taxes and regulations. Americans, as a whole, are slaves to the total debt].

287 - we must not go the way of Rome and other dead civilizations [its odd that Mr. Benson does not mention the Book of Mormon civilizations that supposedly died]. The Lord told Mormons to build a printing press. The Word of Wisdom is an outline for the feeding of livestock.

289 - the preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt [its too late now. The US debt is over \$17 trillion dollars]. We must take our choice between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude. Credit is a willing servant but a cruel master [Americans are currently the servants of their huge debt load].

291 - bigger government leads to tendency toward looser fiscal policy [it is very loose as of now, in November 2013]. God grant us wisdom and faith to heed the inspired counsel of the priesthood to get out of debt.

292 - no man in debt is truly free [Jesus make make you free].

294 - teach something of the prophetic history of this great nation [Gerald N. Lund wrote an interesting book called "The Coming of the Lord". It gives a good insight into what past LDS Presidents and elders have taught about the United States].

- 295 - we will have a fulness in God's presence [this means exaltation to godhood].
- 296 - sacred books of the ancient Persians. Lesbianism, homosexuality, and other perverse practices. Abortion of unborn humans. Fathers must take time to find out what their children are being taught and then take steps to correct false information and teaching (Come Unto Christ, p. 59) [Mormon fathers should start with the manuals published by the Church's Educational System. There is a lot of false teaching therein. The greatest false teaching is Joseph Smith teaching that Heavenly Father was once a man who became God].
- 297 - doctrine of the Fall. In a free and open society such as ours, a well-rounded education is an essential for the preservation of freedom against ... aspiring tyrants who would have us ignorantly vote ourselves into bondage [but unfortunately, Americans have voted themselves into bondage by electing corrupt politicians who have created a debt which can never be repaid].
- 298 - it is unconstitutional for the Federal government to exercise any powers over education.
- 301 - we have schools without Christmas programs commemorating the birth of Christ and schools without standards of dress [but the Mormon Church teaches Jesus was born in April. See <http://ldslearning.org/christmastime.htm>].
- 302 - intelligence is the one attribute above all that links us to our divine parentage [Jesus said to be holy, not smart].
- 302-303 - the most vital words that you can read are those of the Presidents of the Church - particularly the living prophet - and those of the Apostles and prophets. The best yardstick to use in discerning the worth of true knowledge and learning is to go first and foremost to the words of the Lord's prophets ("In His Steps", 1979 Devotional Speeches of the Year, p. 62) [but many Latter-day Saints reject the words of these same Presidents. Example: "Gospel Doctrine", "Doctrines of Salvation", "The Way to Perfection", "Journal of Discourses". Another example is found on the web site - <http://ldslearning.org/original-sin.htm>].
- 303 - President Joseph F. Smith said that one of the things that plagued the Church within was false educational ideas [the same things plagues the LDS' CES today].
- 304 - learn to discern error through the promptings of the Spirit and your study of the truth (God, Family, Country, p. 239) [hopefully more members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will leave the church when they realize Joseph Smith was a false prophet for teaching Heavenly Father was once a man who became God].

- 305 - when your freedom and your eternal welfare are at stake, your information best be accurate (Conference Report, April 1967, Improvement Era, June 1967, 59) [the eternal life of Mormons will be at stake when they realized they have followed Joseph Smith's god - a man who is taught to have become God].
- 307 - parents can help students (their children) by exposing some of the deceptions of men like Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin, John Dewey, John Keynes, and others [I would put Joseph Smith and Brigham Young in first and second place for their false teachings].
- 308 - nominal Christianity outside the restored church stands as an evidence that the blend between worldly philosophy and revealed truth leads to impotence [I would say that the false things taught by the LDS' CES will leave their students impotent if they die with the same beliefs].
- 309 - there are a few teachers within the church who court apostasy [anyone who believes the false teachings in the LDS' CES is courting apostasy - both teacher and student]. The Christian world is filled with doubt and insecurity - groping - unable to see the future [Mormons who believe in Joseph Smith's teaching of a man who became God will be the ones feeling insecure after they die].
- 310 - prophets serve as mouthpieces of God Almighty. Teach students a love for ... principles for which the church stands [the LDS Church stands by the 1997 version of Gospel Principles]. Teach students to know the power of prayer. Jesus and the Father appeared to the boy prophet in the Sacred Grove.
- 311 - for personal problems, never get between someone and his bishop. Being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; and thus they become new creatures (Mosiah 27:25-26) [but Mormon theology teaches you are a spirit son or daughter before you are redeemed].
- 312 - Lehi had a vision of the tree of life and a man in a white robe (1 Nephi 8:6-12) [xxx]. Latter-day Saints are custodians of the restored gospel of Christ [the Community of Christ, another sect of Mormonism, would make a similar claim].
- 313 - the LDS are condemned for not using the Book of Mormon to increase converts (D&C 84:57).
- 314 - glorious appearance of the Father and Son to Joseph Smith.
- 315 - father of our spirits. Jesus is our elder brother in the spirit.

- 316 - your hair style should be conformity with the standards of the church [I wonder if the long beards of former LDS Presidents would conform to the standards of today's LDS Church?].
- 317 - doctrinal interpretation is the province of the First Presidency.
- 319 - some Mormons get teaching positions in the Church Educational System, where they spread the falsehoods they have been taught (Gospel Doctrine, pp. 312-313; God, Family, Country, p. 258) [apostasy exists in the LDS Church. It is not surprising to find false teachings in the CES manuals].
- 323 - youth should not be involved in petting and necking.
- 324 - music is such an important part of our service [and I very sombre service may I say. Who died?].
- 325 - some evil music has invaded church cultural halls [more signs of apostasy in the LDS Church]. Rock music festivals are among Satan's greatest successes. The Woodstock festival was a gigantic manifestation of a sick nation.
- 326 - don't listen to music that is degrading.
- 327 - Christ has set an example of what we should be like and what we should do. Jesus had power to resurrect his own body.
- 328 - eternal life is the kind of life lived by Heavenly Father [in simple terms, 'eternal life' defined as living the life of a god. Non-gods in heaven do not have eternal life].
- 329 - Jesus is the Lord Omnipotent (Mosiah 3:17) [verse 5 of the same chapter is interesting - "For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases". The Mormon Jesus is NOT the Lord Omnipotent from all eternity to all eternity. He is the first spirit children born to a Heavenly Mother and Father, who progressed into a god in the spirit world].
- Lehi beheld a tree whose fruit was desirable to make one happy (1 Nephi 8: 10). He invited his family to also partake. This tree represented the love of God (1 Nephi 11:25) [there is an interesting parallel with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Eve was tempted by the devil to eat the forbidden

fruit. According to the Bible, "the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat". Apparently Eve noticed that she had not died, so she gave it to Adam who also ate. In Mormon theology, this forbidden fruit can also represent the love of God because he used their rebellion as the way to shower them with blessings of progression and childbirth].

331 - pay the debt you owe to those who proudly watch over you [Mormons are taught that they owe the debt to their new creditor - Jesus Christ. See the 1997 version of Gospel Principles, chapter 12, p. 77; The Mediator, Ensign, May 1977, pp. 54-55]. Fast Sunday - 24 hours without food or drink.

332 - those who complain and murmur against the leaders of the church lose their faith [some even gain a greater faith in the truth].

334 - sometimes a leader of the church will tell you that you are on the wrong side of an issue. You must follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit [it is unfortunate more Latter-day Saints do not follow this counsel with the teaching of Joseph Smith that Heavenly Father was once a man who became God]. Mormons will be victorious if they hold up the arms of the Lord's anointed servants (Conference Report, April 1986, Ensign, May 1986, 77) [but Latter-day Saints must lower the arms when a false teaching arises].

If you want to be close to the Lord, follow the counsel of those who have been called to preside over you [even when they teach falsely?]. The prophet and the presidency ... follow them and be blessed; reject them and suffer [but they must be rejected when they teach falsely, especially Joseph Smith when he taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became God].

335 - never decide not to follow the prophet when you think something is not right [this is dangerous advice to give to a Mormon]. The living prophet is more important to us than a dead prophet. The most important reading we can do is any of the words of the prophet contained each week in the Church section of the Deseret News and monthly in our church magazines [but LDS leaders have taught falsely and led the people astray].

336 - may God bless us all to look to the prophet and the presidency in the critical and crucial days ahead [it will be interesting to see how Mormons will react when the false prophecy of the building of the New Jerusalem prior to the Second Coming finally starts to sink in]. Theology is a science. Religion is an art.

337 - Theology is knowing, religion is doing. Being born again comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances (Teachings of Joseph Smith, p. 162).

- 338 - we profess to be Latter-day Saints! The Lord expects its members to be trustworthy [but they removed many parts of the 1997 version of Gospel Principles. One major part removed was the teaching that Heavenly Father was once a man who became God. Another thing the LDS Church did was to remove the 1997 reference from the copyright section of the 2009 version. Sneaky if you ask me].
- 339 - the Lord wants us to be happy. Sin brings sorrow, disappointment, and heartaches.
- 340 - joy and happiness come only through living the principles of the gospel.
- 341 - remain faithful to the church and its teachings [even though she teaches falsely?]. We know that through our efforts we are worthy, with our loved ones, to dwell in His presence for all eternity [Nephi taught that you are saved only 'after' all you can do].
- 343 - if we obey God's laws, we receive the blessings pertaining to those laws. If we do not obey, receive consequences (Conference Report, April 1983, Ensign, May 1983, 53) [but LDS theology teaches that great blessings resulted when Adam and Eve 'disobeyed' God in the Garden of Eden. Some Mormons even deny that Adam and Eve sinned. See <http://ldslearning.org/original-sin.htm>].
- 343 - you can't do wrong and feel right [in LDS theology Adam and Eve did right and they felt wrong]. We are to learn the will of the Lord and do it.
- 344 - men receive blessings by obedience to God's law [in LDS theology Adam and Eve received great blessings in disobedience to God's law]. We are all home in the Father's celestial home.
- 345 - Christ was born in the meridian of time [the meridian of time is given a time value in other publications ... about 4,000 years from Adam]. The angel Moroni, John the Baptist, Peter, James, and numerous other angels were directed by heaven to restore the necessary powers to the kingdom (Conference Report, October 1986, Ensign, November 1986, 79-80) [I wonder if this is supposed to mean that Peter is an angel like Gabriel? According to History of the LDS Church, volume 1, "The Spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph in an unusual manner, and he prophesied that John the Revelator was then among the Ten Tribes of Israel who had been led away by Shalmaneser king of Assyria to prepare them for their return from their long dispersion to again possess the land of their fathers". But according to "The Coming of the Lord", these Ten Tribes come from the land of the north to the New Jerusalem in Jackson Country before the Second Coming].

- 346-347 - a proclamation by the President of the United States of America, March 30 1863, cited in Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, 1905, p. 236. See <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=69891>]
- 347 - man is an eternal child of Deity [some clarification is needed here. The LDS Church teaches that spirits are eternal and that people were eternal spirits before they were born as spirits to a Heavenly Mother and Father].
- 348 - we fully repent and forsake all that has been evil in our past lives [I think this is a reference to their past life before coming to earth in mortal bodies. But then, what evil did they commit in their celestial home with Heavenly Father?]. The great test of life is obedience to God [Adam failed that test in the Garden of Eden. But on the other hand, some Mormons say Adam did the right thing in disobeying God. See original-sin.htm].
- 349 - thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3) [but Joseph Smith invented the man who became God and Latter-day Saints worship this exalted man].
- 350 - God is the father of our spirits.
- 351 - Mormon mothers put God first when they stay in the home instead of seeking for a job. Don't be unequally yoked; don't marry someone who does not want a temple marriage. Whatever God requires is right and so Nephi slew Laban.
- 352 - both Abraham and Isaac now sit as gods (D&C 132:37). They were both willing to offer or to be offered up as God required (Conference Report, April 1988, Ensign, May 1988, 6) [D&C 132:37 also mentions Jacob as being a god. In LDS theology, Abraham's use of concubinage also helped him reach godhood].
- 353 - the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount are the foundation principles upon which our personal happiness is predicated [odd that he did not mention the Word of Wisdom]. We are saved after all we can do (2 Nephi 25:23). Only those who comply with laws and ordinances would have everlasting life. Because of the atoning sacrifice, all mankind will attain immortality.
- 354 - after all we can do includes extending our best effort [God did not give the commandments on a 'best effort' context]. Cursed is he who puts his trust in man [Latter-day Saints put their trust in an exalted man - a man made God]. Those who follow the wisdom of men are deceived the most. The Latter-day Saints must choose between the reasoning of men and the revelations of God [Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became God. Mormons should reject this false prophet]. Some within the LDS Church are leading some of the members astray. Ravening wolves are amongst us ... they wear the habiliments of the Priesthood (Conference Report,

April 1949, p. 163) [apostasy is alive and well in the Mormon church].

- 357 - if we keep the commandments we will refrain from joining secret orders [Joseph Smith got around this by merging Freemasonry into Mormonism]. Garments of the holy priesthood [the early Christians did not wear any special garments. These garments are Old Testament priesthood system].
- 358 - the commandments were designed to exalt man from his fallen state [even unborn babies are in this fallen state]. Be true to every standard and teaching of the church [there is apostasy in the LDS Church. Even Joseph Smith led the members to worship the man-become-God. And there are some false teachers and teachings in the LDS Church training manuals and magazines].
- 360 - Mormonism is a nickname for the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness. It answers the questions: Where did I come from? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life? Where am I going? [many LDS teachings are not even found in the Book of Mormon so Latter-day Saints must look to other scriptures to find the answers].
- 365 - a priceless possession is your testimony of the divinity of this work [it seems the focus is your testimony of Joseph Smith instead of Jesus Christ].
- 366 - we are recipients of God's choicest blessings [Israel in its glory days was much more blessed than the United States].
- 371 - Jesus called the seventy. He delegated to others [some manuscripts say 72].
- 373 - the greatest leader on the earth today is the leader of the LDS Church [humility?]
- 375 - you should know Church history [the LDS Church does not publish volumes 1 to 6 her history to make it available to all members].
- 377 - a good leader is not easily deceived [a prime example is Joseph Smith when he started teaching that God was not God from everlasting].
- 378 - Jesus gives us the master example of good administration through proper delegating [the LDS Church is high on delegation]. Rugged, able men whom he called to be his Apostles gave up prosperous business careers to follow him [most of the Apostles were young boys and poor fishermen].
- 379 - a wise administrator in the church today will not try to do the job himself [imagine Philip delegating the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch to someone else].

380 - Jesus aimed to make of every man a king [the LDS Church aims to make of every man a god].

381 - there are some regrettable things being said and done by some people in the church today (An Enemy Hath Done This, p. 317) [apostasy is alive and well in the Mormon church].

387 - every person on earth today choose the right side side during the war in heaven [the Book of Mormon does not mention a war in heaven].

387 - wise decisions are the stepping-stones of progress [some Mormons believe Adam chose wisely because it was his stepping-stone to progress].

389 - our eternal destiny will be determined by the decisions we yet will make [Joseph Smith's destiny was sealed as soon as he began preaching his man-become God].

392 - sex education in school is an evil of the devil. So is destructive sensitivity training [not sure what this is].

393 - stay on the strait and narrow path ... you do this by holding fast to the iron rod--the words of God ... as given by his living servants on this earth (Conference Report, April 1984, Ensign, May 1984, 8) [but the words of some LDS leaders have led Mormons astray. The biggest example is Joseph Smith when he taught God is not God from everlasting].

395 - no people in this world will have the knowledge that we have.

396 - shortly thereafter (the crucifixion), Jesus received a fulness of joy [the 1997 version of Gospel Principles says that our heavenly parents have also received their fulness of joy. Apparently Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother also died and were resurrected].

397-398 - God's voice is the same as the voice of his servants (D&C 1:38) [but some of the LDS leaders have deceived their members].

398 - Salvation is nothing more nor less than to triumph over all our enemies and put them under our feet (Teachings of Joseph Smith, p. 297) [the LDS Church has 6 main definitions for salvation - "Have You Been Saved?", Ensign, May 1998].

399 - in the War in Heaven the devil advocated absolute eternal security at the sacrifice of freedom. God decreed no guaranteed security except by a man's own freedom of choice and individual initiative.

- 400 - the woman of Revelation 12 represents the Church of Jesus Christ. In the war with Satan, some saints would be overcome (Revelation 13:7; "The Power of the Word", Ensign, May 1986, 81) [Revelation 13:7 is not speaking about the war in heaven. These saints are on the earth; so is the beast]. Satan often establishes a counterfeit system to deceive [and he has invented a counterfeit god whom people worship as the exalted man].
- 401 - we must be alert to ... subtle sins. No church will ever be stronger than its families.
- 402 - Satan is emphasizing abortion. Satan would have you believe that true joy comes only as you surrender to his enticements [the LDS Church would have you believe that Adam and Eve had no joy before they surrendered to his enticements in the Garden of Eden].
- 403 - the Lord saved some spiritual giants for some 6,000 years [this is a reference to earth's temporal existence]. Satan has evil influences in secret societies and organizations.
- 405 - the Lord's revelations are contained in the writings and declarations of the current prophet [but Latter-day Saints are told that not all what they say is doctrine].
- 405-406 - three short tests to avoid being deceived--what do the Standard Works say? What do LDS Presidents say? What does the Holy Spirit say?
- 407 - Jesus Christ is the God of the United States. Opposition to this weighty principle of freedom caused many of our brothers and sisters in the premortal existence to lose their first estate in the War in Heaven (An Enemy Hath Done This, pp. 281-282).
- 408 - the Sabbath has become a desecrated day of amusement. Society sponsors Sabbath-breaking but the church counsels otherwise. Earthquakes are judgments to be poured out on the nations of the world because of the rejection of the gospel (D&C 87:6).
- 409 - sex is a God-given impulse in men and women.
- 410 - sin brings sorrow. Aids began primarily through widespread homosexuality.
- 412 - the Lord blessed the United States above all others. God will not permit ... the killing of the unborn ... without grievous punishment [abortion].
- 413 - sin demands punishment.

417 - the pioneers came to the Salt Lake Valley with credentials that spanned the centuries, a bloodline cursing through their veins from illustrious parentage: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel [an LDS manual teaches, "The great majority of those who have come into the Church are Ephraimites. It is the exception to find one of any other tribe, unless it is of Manasseh" - Religion 430-431 – Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual, p. 66. Ephraim and Manasseh were the children through Joseph's Egyptian wife, so take note of this if you want to talk about a Mormon's bloodline].

Exodus lasted forty years--a time necessary for a new, less-enslaved generation to develop. Theirs was a bloodline ... brought their sifted lineage into northern Europe and Great Britain (This Nation Shall Endure, p. 37) [this bloodline includes Egyptian blood]. Others received the gospel in Europe and then emigrated to Zion. They were obedient to a prophet and had the faith to make the trek West.

419 - they prayed and the sea gulls came to eat the crickets.

420 - carved an Eden out of the desert. Their promised land.

422 - fervent prayer on the part of a young fourteen-year-old boy in New York State in 1820 started a chain of events.

426 - we should avoid using the same phrases in each prayer. Words like "thy", "thou", and "thine" should be used so proper reverence can be shown [the Mormons should pray using King James English. This teaching about specific words to use is not found in the standard works of the LDS Church].

427 - avoid vain repetitions. An effective public prayer depends more on the feeling of the individual than the words he uses.

431 - the holy scriptures are replete with convincing admonitions regarding the importance of prayer [the Bible has more to say about prayer than the Book of Mormon].

433 - do not allow yourself to get into positions where it is easy to fall.

435 - pride of Nephites proved to be their destruction (Moroni 8:27). One of Satan's greatest tools is pride. It is always considered sin. Pride is a "my will" rather than "thy will" approach to life [this sin was evident in the Garden of Eden when Eve followed Satan's will instead of God's will].

437 - the athletic program entices boys to church who haven't the slightest interest in Church. One of the best ways to bring inactive boys into the chapel is through the gym.

- 438 - avoid golf, skiing, skating, etc on the Sabbath [no secular television or movies are allowed].
- 442 - be worthy to prepare and bless and pass the sacrament. The sacrament should be taken often (D&C 20:77,79; Conference Report, October 1974, Ensign, November 1974, 66).
- 443 - when one sacrifices all to God then God in return shares all that he has with him.
- 443-444 - a story is told of sacrifice - One of our stake presidents brought his family to the Sao Paulo Temple from Lima, Peru, normally a nine-day bus ride, but, because of bus strikes and other problems, the journey took them fourteen days of travel. Upon their arrival at Sao Paulo, the family went to the first session they could, and the sealing ceremony was performed. Then they immediately prepared to leave. The temple president asked them if they were staying the night. The father replied that the family had to leave immediately since they did not have sufficient money for lodging and food. He said they would have to travel several days without food as it was. The family was then persuaded to stay the night and have breakfast before their departure. That represents the spirit of sacrifice of many of our Saints worldwide (Ensign, May 1979, "This Is A Day Of Sacrifice") [it is unfortunate that this family from Peru did not realize that the early Christians did not practice temple sealings].
- 445 - a purpose of this probationary state is that man learns to control all of his bodily appetites, desires, and passions [God did not place Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden on probation]. The temple of God is man's mortal body. You sow thoughts and reap acts. You sow acts and you reap habits. You sow habits and you reap a character, and your character determines your eternal destiny.
- 446 - those fettered by insatiable appetites for things destructive of man's noblest qualities never know either real freedom or the sweet fruits of inward peace (So Shall You Reap, p. 54).
- 449 - forget yourself and find someone who needs your service, and you will discover the secret to the happy fulfilled life.
- 450 - our great purpose in life is to overcome adversity and worldly consideration as we strive for things of the Spirit [the purpose of the Mormon Heavenly Father is to make each of his children like Him, a god - Gospel Principles, 1997].

451 - being conferred with the holy priesthood is most priceless.

452 - John saw ... the gospel dispensations, the establishment of the church in the meridian of time, the great apostasy, the angel flying through the midst of heaven ... the restoration (Revelation 14:6) [in LDS theology, this angel is Moroni. But he did not fly in the midst of heaven].

453 - to magnify our callings is explained.

454 - magnify your calling by sustaining church leaders by word and action. Keep the Sabbath as a holy day.

456 - disregard for the law still brings punishment [it has since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and were punished]. Cecil B. Demille once said that men and nations cannot break the Ten Commandments; they can only break themselves upon them.

457 - there is certain music heard, feminine-like hair styles seen on men ... clothes worn among our youth and some adults also that must pass away -- not because the styles change, but because our standards will be improved [I wonder if clean shaven men is an improved standard by the early LDS leaders who had beards. Or the shortened version of the temple garments is an improved standard over the longer version of the earlier era].

Lasting security comes only to a people who are spiritually and morally strong (The Red Carpet, p. 260). Those who ignore God's laws will always live in despair [but in LDS theology Adam and Eve gained the ability to feel joy when they disobeyed one of God's laws in the Garden of Eden].

459 - we cannot be effective if, while we teach them the Word of Wisdom, we are serving tea and coffee and cocktails in our homes. We cannot be effective if we are not honorable in our dealings with our fellowmen [it is reported that Mormons own the Marriot chain of hotels. They apparently don't have issues with serving tea, coffee, cocktails, and pornographic moves in their hotels to non-Mormons].

Anytime you break a law of God you pay the penalty in ... sadness [in LDS theology Adam and Eve were blessed with the ability to feel joy when they broke one of God's laws in the Garden of Eden].

460 - keep the Sabbath day holy. Refrain from making purchases on the Sabbath. We should not seek pleasure in any form on the Sabbath day. We should stand firm in opposition to Sunday baseball and other amusements regardless of what much of the Christian world may do.

464 - some day church doctrine will catch up with our way of thinking (An Enemy Hath Done This, p. 282) [many Latter-day Saints will die to find out their way of thinking led to the worship of a false god]. There is no happiness in wickedness [but in LDS theology Adam and Eve gained joy through their disobedience].

465 - a testimony of Jesus is to know the divine nature of our Lord's birth -- that He is indeed the Only Begotten Son in the flesh.

466 - to possess a testimony of Jesus is to know that he voluntarily took upon himself the sins of all mankind in the Garden of Gethsemane, which caused him to suffer in both body and spirit and to bleed from every pore (D&C 19:16, 18) [odd how Mr. Benson ignored a mention of the cross. I wonder if this means that Jesus did not take upon himself the sins of the world on the cross because he did not bleed from every pore while he hung there].

Jesus came forth from the grave with a physical, resurrected body. Jesus established his church in the meridian of time. It is reported that some Mormons saw Christ on the right hand of God (D&C 76:22-23).

466-467 - the greatest event since the resurrection of Jesus is said to be the supposed vision of Father and Son to the boy Joseph Smith.

467 - no one can compete against a strong testimony.

468 - God wants all to know that Joseph Smith is a prophet.

468 - we fully accept the historical records of both the Old and New Worlds [I have heard some Mormons are starting to believe the Book of Mormon is a fictional story]. Vision of Father and Son to the boy-prophet. A testimony is to have current inspiration to know the work is true [i.e. to know the LDS work is true].

469 - Father of our spirits. Jesus is our Elder Brother. God's kingdom will hold universal dominion in the earth [Adam had this dominion prior to the Fall]. The kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith was slain as a martyr to the truth [but Joseph Smith was not killed for his belief in Jesus Christ. He was killed by an angry mob who was only interested in killing the leader for what he had done]. Joseph Smith is the head of the greatest dispensation. He will continue to stand as the head throughout the eternities. I know ... because I have felt [Mormons rely a lot on their feelings to determine if something is true].

No person who does not receive this work can be saved in the celestial kingdom of God and escape the condemnation of the Judge of us all (This Nation Shall Endure, pp. 112-113) [many Mormons will end up condemned for eternity, along with Hindus and Muslims, in their telestial and terrestrial kingdoms]. Sacrament meetings is where the gospel is taught by testimony.

470 - tithes and offerings are the Lord's way to finance his kingdom.

471 - tithing is a commandment.

473 - the fast offering should be a generous contribution, and as a minimum should be the equivalent of the value of two meals (General Handbook of Instructions, No. 21, 1976) [this is also mentioned in Gospel Principles].

474 - Adam driven from the Garden of Eden and the first principle was revealed to him-- that by the sweat of his face he would eat bread. All we obtain in life ... is a product of labor and providence of God. Work produces life's necessities (Conference Report, October 1980, Ensign, November 1980, 32) [in LDS theology, the expulsion was a good thing because it allowed the Adam, Eve, and their descendants to enjoy work. God's first principle was not actually a punishment but a blessing by the LDS god].

The blessings in each realm come through obedience to the respective laws [but in LDS theology Adam and Eve received great blessings for their disobedience].

476 - the Word of Wisdom leads to clean habits. The Spirit of God cannot dwell in an unclean tabernacle (see Helaman 4:24) [but verse 24 has nothing to do with eating improper foods. See verses 22-23 - "And that they had altered and trampled under their feet the laws of Mosiah, or that which the Lord commanded him to give unto the people; and they saw that their laws had become corrupted, and that they had become a wicked people, insomuch that they were wicked even like unto the Lamanites. And because of their iniquity the church had begun to dwindle; and they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy and in the spirit of revelation; and the judgments of God did stare them in the face". I find that Mormon leaders occasionally point to invalid verses to make a point. That is why it is important to understand the context].

477 - the human body is the tabernacle of the spirit and God expects that it be kept clean and unimpaired. Serving cocktails and coffee in your homes when friends come is dangerous and can lead only to heartache and disappointment and a loss of faith (Conference Report, October 1955, Improvement Era, December 1955, 952) [I wonder if it is dangerous for the LDS Church to accept tithes from owners of the Marriot chain of hotels when they serve cocktails and coffee to strangers? Or maybe the LDS Church has different

standards for believers and non-believers].

477-478 - the Word of Wisdom is the Lord's law of health [it is not optional].

479 - Satan will entice you to use harmful substances [like Coke and Pepsi?].

481 - man is commanded by God to live by the sweat of his own brow, not someone else's [this was a punishment given to Adam. Adam was already working, but without toil and a cursed earth. This ideal situation is what God had intended].

483 - history records that even the climate was tempered for their sakes (Isaiah 35:1) [I do not recall any climate in the Book of Mormon. No mention of winter, summer, cold, snow, etc. Also, I could find no mention of God changing the environmental conditions to help people].

People do not care how much you know if they do not know how much you care.

484 - ours is a gospel of work. The earth was cursed for Adam's sake. Work is our blessing, not our doom [the Bible never says that work is a curse ... for Adam and Eve were already working in the Garden of Eden. The curse is the toil of the work. It seems Latter-day Saints have a difficult time understanding this for they see their extension of their toil in work as a blessing instead of the result of Adam's curse]. Every member is a missionary. The wife is the heart of the home, the husband is the head. We bring from our premortal state various talents and abilities.

Part 4 - Family and Home

489 - the family is the most important organization.

490 - it was Joseph Smith who revealed that the family may endure beyond the grave (Come Unto Christ, p. 124).

490-491 - exaltation in the celestial kingdom is directly related to the family and the eternity of the marriage covenant [in LDS theology, single people will never live with Heavenly Father in his kingdom].

491 - celestial patriarchal order [i.e. eternal increase].

492 - we build our most elaborate and expensive structures, temples of God, so that man, woman, and children may be bound together by covenant in an everlasting union [this teaching is unbiblical. It is also not taught in the Book of Mormon or Pearl of Great Price. It was invented solely by the LDS Church. The Old Testament temple (not temples like in LDS theology) was used for animal sacrifices, not marriages. The New Testament disciples did not build temples.

Mothers should be full-time mothers in the home.

493 - God intended the family to be eternal [who ever said a father would stop being a father to his son when they died?]

494 - fathers are to procreate ... mothers are to conceive [odd. I thought both had the powers of procreation].

494-495 - be worthy to receive a temple recommend [this is unbiblical. It is also not taught in the Book of Mormon or Pearl of Great Price].

495 - there is no inequality in the sexes, only a differing of responsibility in God's plan (Conference Report, April 1984, Ensign, May 1984, 6). The Lord is sending to the earth some of His very choicest spirits in this day when wickedness is most intense [in LDS theology these spirits could even be greater than Joseph Smith and Brigham Young].

496 - marriage is a duty of the highest order [single people break the law of God if they choose to remain single]. It is not the prerogative of parents to permit their children to grow up and choose for themselves ... see that these important ordinances are performed in their behalf (D&C 68:25-28; So Shall Ye Reap, p. 111) [parents should teach their children to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. And the children are to be baptized when 8 years old].

My earthly and divine parents [this is a reference to Heavenly Mother].

498 - children must be taught to work in the home.

499 - children are baptized for the remission of sins when eight years old (D&C 68:27).

500 - if we would become like God, knowing good and evil, then we had best find out what is undermining us, how to avoid it, and what we can do about it (see Alma 12:31; Genesis 3:22; God, Family, Country, pp. 229-230) [Alma 12:31 says, "Wherefore, he gave commandments unto men, they having first transgressed the first commandment as to things which were temporal, and

becoming as Gods, knowing good from evil, placing themselves in a state to act, or being placed in a state to act according to their wills and pleasures, whether to do evil or to do good". This is an error. Adam and Eve did not transgress commandments in the Garden. They only transgressed one commandment. Adam and Eve were already in a state to act before they ate from the forbidden tree].

501 - most importantly, parents are to install within their children a desire for eternal life and to earnestly seek that goal above all else (Conference Report, October 1982, Ensign, November 1982, 60-61) [the Mormon goal in life is to become a God or Goddess in the afterlife. This is exaltation].

502 - people, if they remain single in their mortal life, will realize the blessings of parenthood after death (God, Family, Country, p. 193). Some children have been born into the covenant.

505 - in the beginning, Adam, not Eve, was instructed to earn the bread by the sweat of his brow [and God said to Eve, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee"].

506 - your spiritual growth and progression will be hampered if women seek to work outside the home [does this apply to the husband, wife, or both?].

507 - the husband should provide his family with a year's supply of food, clothing, and where possible, fuel.

508 - the wife is the queen of the home.

509 - mothers are the heart of the home. If a man fails in the home, he will face eternity in disappointment [Mormons in the celestial and terrestrial kingdoms will face eternity in misery since they will live apart from their Heavenly Father].

510 - help maintain a free government [does this mean not being heavily taxed or not having the freedom to vote?].

512 - the prize is to see one's family exalted in the celestial kingdom. If that prize is lost, nothing else really matters [Mormons who end up in the celestial and terrestrial kingdoms will find out that their existence does not really matter because they will forever live apart from their Heavenly Father].

513 - the Lord states that the opportunity and responsibility of wives is to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment [this was also given to animals]. Wives are co-creators.

- 514 - isn't that beautiful? A mother praying to bear a child and then giving him to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:27-28) [this beautiful story does not occur in the Book of Mormon]. President Kimball said wives should not earn a living except in unusual circumstances (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 318). Only in emergency should a wife secure outside employment.
- 516 - when home evenings were first introduced to the church [when? Is this required when the Lord already gave instruction in the Bible?]. Youth of Israel.
- 517 - teach children at your own fireside. Teach children gospel principles.
- 518 - the divine calling is for mothers to stay at home and take care of their children.
- 519 - children are born innocent, not evil [in LDS theology, is innocent the opposite of evil? Are children born into a good state or fallen state?].
- 520 - remember well the Book of Mormon account of Helaman's 2,000 stripling warriors and how the teachings of their mothers gave them strength and faith (see Alma 53:10-23; 56:41-56; Conference Report, April 1986, Ensign, May 1986, 43).
- 523 - Satan wants to destroy the home through having the mother leave the care of her children to others.
- 524 - don't let your own fireside fall apart.
- 526 - fathers are commanded to take the lead in all spiritual matters [I wonder if a twelve year old child, ordained to the priesthood, takes the spiritual lead over his mother when the father is away at work?].
- 527 - working mothers contribute to increased divorce, to infidelity, to the weakening of homes.
- 528 - in 1915, the First Presidency of the church inaugurated the home evening program by a letter. The Presidency has spoken, and this is the word of the Lord!
- 529 - Monday night has been set aside as an evening for the family together. God inspired his prophet ... to institute the weekly home evening program.
- 532 - if you even have to wait until the next life to get a choice man--God will make up the difference to you [this is contrary to the teaching of Jesus].

- 533 - two individuals becoming "one flesh" is still the Lord's standard [Joseph Smith and other early LDS leaders entered polygamy because they said the 'Lord' told them to]. No ordinance is more important than marriage to the eternal joy of man [in LDS theology, there will be married people in the telestial and terrestrial kingdoms, but they will live in misery apart from God for eternity]. Marriage is the most exalting principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ [this is contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Even he did not seek to be married himself].
- 534 - the first marriage ... was between two immortal beings. Marriage was thus intended to be eternal [this is contrary to the teaching of Jesus. After the resurrection, we will be like the angels in heaven. They are not married nor are they having spirit children].
- 534 - following the consummation of this marriage, God instructed Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiple [following? How was the marriage consummated?]. Eve tilled the earth with Adam (see Moses 5:102,4,12,16). Adam and Eve labored together [did Eve also sweat by her brow when she tilled?]. Celestial marriage is an absolute requirement to attain the highest degree of glory in the celestial kingdom. That means you will marry in the temple of God. Marriage in the temple is God's way [but there was no temple in the Garden of Eden].
- 537 - just family and closest friends may observe your wedding [and these people must be worthy Mormons with a temple recommend. You will not be allowed in the temple without a valid pass card]. Temple ordinance is a gospel ordinance for exaltation (Conference Report, April 1979, Ensign, May 1979, 33).
- 538 - the temple is an ever-present reminder that God intends the family to be eternal [is not not the biblical meaning for the need for temples]. Family is our greatest source of joy in this life (Conference Report, April 1979, Ensign, May 1979, 33-34) [this is not biblical teaching. I cannot find it even in the extra Mormon scriptures].
- 539 - we oppose and abhor the damnable practice of wholesale abortion [what does wholesale mean?].
- 540 - birth control is evil (Conference Report, April 1969, Improvement Era, June 1969, 44). Brigham Young said to have as many babies as possible.
- 541 - birth control and abortion jeopardizes your exaltation and your future membership in the kingdom of God (God, Family, Country, p. 224).
- 541-542 - women who are barren now will be blessed with children in the eternities.

542 - determine the size of one's family in accordance with one's conscience and legitimate desires.

542-543 - there are couples in the [LDS] Church who think they are getting along just fine with their limited families but who will someday suffer the pains of remorse when they meet the spirits that might have been part of their posterity [well, this is not exactly true. If this married couple end up in the telestial kingdom, they will never meet this spirit if he is exalted in the celestial kingdom. By the way, in LDS theology, all people in the telestial and terrestrial kingdoms will suffer eternal remorse because they will never live with Heavenly Father].

543 - God will glorify that husband and wife who have a large posterity (God, Family, Country, pp. 257-258). Do not curtail the number of children for personal or selfish reasons. In the eternal perspective, children are our greatest jewels [this is not biblical teaching. I cannot find it even in the extra Mormon scriptures].

544 - remember the counsel of Elder Bruce R. McConkie -- the most important single thing that any Latter-day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person in the right place by the right authority ("Choose an Eternal Companion", BYU speeches of the Year, 1986, 2) [this was not the teaching of Jesus. By the way, Latter-day Saints do not accept all the teachings of Mr. McConkie. His 1967 version of "Mormon Doctrine" has been considerably revised but unfortunately he was never excommunicated from the LDS Church].

545 - a single man will not have an answer to "Where is your wife?" when he appears before Jesus Christ for judgment (Ensign, February 1975, 2). "I did not find the right girl" will be hollow and of little avail [but this is one of the counsels of Mr. McConkie above. People should not marry if they feel they have not found the right person].

The Lord never gives a commandment without providing the means to accomplish it (see 1 Nephi 3:7) [in LDS theology, Adam and Eve could not obey God's commandment to be fruitful and multiply until they disobeyed Him and ate from the forbidden tree].

547 - counsel of the Gods. In the beginning Adam, not Eve, was instructed to earn the bread by the sweat of his brow [but according to the Pearl of Great Price, Eve tilled the earth with Adam]. Contrary to conventional wisdom, a mother's calling is in the home, not in the marketplace. Women will have claim on their husbands for their maintenance until the husbands are taken (see D&C 83:2).

- 547-548 - women were not created to be the same as men. Your natural attributes, affections, and personalities are entirely different from a man's. They consist of faithfulness, benevolence, kindness, and charity. They give you the personality of a woman [this is a strange teaching. So men are unnaturally faithful and charitable but the woman is not? By the way, these affections and personalities attributed to women perfectly describe Jesus Christ and other born again Christian males].
- 548 - they [the attributes and personalities of the woman] balance the more aggressive and competitive nature of a man [are those the only two natural qualities of a man the LDS Church could come up with?]. Exaltation is eternal fatherhood and eternal motherhood [but Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not married].
- 550 - not all women will have an opportunity for marriage and motherhood in mortality. But if you in this situation are worthy and endure faithfully, you can be assured of all blessings [who can marry this single female in the spirit world or in the resurrection?].
- 551 - a woman's role ... to to prepare ... to be his queen for all eternity (Conference Report, October 1981, Ensign, November 1981, 107). These are mature spirits in infant bodies [I have not seen anything in the standard works of the LDS Church to show this].
- 554 - the finest group of young people the world has ever known has been born under the covenant in LDS homes (Conference Report, April 1951, Improvement Era, June 1951, 422).
- 555 - this company of choice spirits have been kept in the spirit world for six thousand years to come forth in the last days [the LDS Church believes the temporal earth is 6,000 years old]. Your birthright surpasses all these, and blessed are you because of your lineage [an LDS manual says most if not all Latter-day Saints are from the tribe of Manasseh and Ephraim]. In your veins runs the best blood in the land [this is unbiblical].
- 556 - Peter, in writing to the Saints anciently, said Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation [the LDS Church excludes Mormon women because they do not hold the priesthood]. You, my young brothers and sisters, were sent to earth through royal lineage [the royal tribe in Israel is Judah by the way, so it is not clear what Mr. Benson means by royal lineage].
- The priesthood empowers you to be a representative of Jesus Christ [even if a Mormon female has the Holy Ghost she is not a representative of Jesus Christ. This LDS teaching is incorrect. The true teaching is that all men and women empowered by the Holy Spirit are representatives of Jesus Christ].

557 - the Book of Mormon will bring spirituality into your life that no other book will.

558 - reference to the 1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year, BYU, "Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet".

559 - to inherit the highest degree of glory in the celestial kingdom, this means marriage ... in the temples of God. That is the only plan that has been provided by our Heavenly Father [but Jesus and the Holy Ghost are not married].

560 - go to the marriage altar clean and pure. The curse of this age is unchastity, next to murder in the category of crimes [unchastity is a crime against God but I would put worshipping a false god ahead of these two].

561 - some of the worst sins are committed after midnight.

562 - short skirts are not pleasing to the Lord. Avoid necking and petting like a plague.

Part 5 - Country

569 - the nation of the United States was established by God [who established the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia?]. 1 Nephi 3:12 is a reference to Columbus. 1 Nephi 13:13 is a reference to the Pilgrims of Plymouth and the Calverts of Maryland for example [1 Nephi 13:15 says, "And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain. But Christopher Columbus and those after him were not all white, fair and beautiful like the Nephites].

570 - America has a prophetic history [only the United States or Canada, Mexico, Brazil, etc too?]. The Constitution was inspired by God (D&C 101:77, 80).

571 - a rejection of God's laws could well lead our nation to its destruction just as it has to Greece and Rome [odd how he doesn't use as the primary example the Nephites and Jaredites]. The land of the United States is the base of God's operations. God, through his power, has established a free people in this land as a means of helping to carry forward his purposes [this was not the way God grew his church in New Testament times. This is a better example of God's power to see how it flourished under the oppression of Rome].

It was God's latter-day purpose to bring forth his gospel in America, not in any other place [the Lord is bringing forth his gospel in all countries where his disciples are]. A free government and a strong nation protected the restored church [this is not the way God protected the New Testament church]. God will not permit America, his base of operations, to be destroyed [does this include Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and other countries too?].

572 - all information disseminated by our churches should be judged according to the words of the prophets [LDS teachers and prophets disseminate information which is contradictory. This leads to confusion amongst its members].

573 - our great system in the United States is based on the freedom of choice.

574 - this is a choice land. God has held this hemisphere (Conference Report, October 1954, Improvement Era, December 1954, 922).

575 - the great country of the United States is seen in Ether 13:8, 2 Nephi 10:18-19, and 1 Nephi 13:13-20. This nation has a prophetic history [Ether 13:8 says, "Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away". While the Latter-day Saints may have settled in Salt Lake City, they plan to build their city in Independence Missouri].

The coming of Columbus and the Pilgrim fathers (1 Nephi 13:12-13) [but the Pilgrims were not white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like the Nephites before they were slain]. Prophet of the Jaredite colony, Mahonri Moriancumer, commonly referred to as the brother of Jared [there is no person in the Book of Mormon with a first name of Mahonri. Also, Moriancumer is the name of a place, not someone's last name].

576 - Revolutionary War (1 Nephi 13:12-19). The Book of Mormon prophesied the founding of the United States [but Christopher Columbus landed near present day Mexico]. The Book of Mormon declares that God deliberately kept the American continent hidden until the Holy Roman Empire had broken up [this is not God's method of operation as seen in the Old Testament].

577 - God inspired a man among the Gentiles (1 Nephi 13:12)--Christoper Columbus --to rediscover the land of America and bring this rich new land to the attention of the people of Europe (Jacob Wasserman, "Columbus, Don Quixote of the Seas", pp. 19-20) [not exactly. This was more for the benefit of Spain, not the other European countries]. Book of Mormon prophets foretold the time that the Gentiles would scatter and kill the inhabitants of the land whom we know today as the Indian nations (1 Nephi 15:17) [but recently

the Mormon Church has distanced itself from the teaching that the Lamanites are the principle ancestors of the Native American Indians. They made an editing change to the Introduction page of the Book of Mormon].

578 - the land of liberty would not be governed by kings [was it God's plan that he rule the United States or that Americans elect a human president?]. God sent some of his choicest spirits to lay the foundation of our government (D&C 101:80). This was a promised land, a land of liberty unto the Gentiles and that is us (2 Nephi 1:7; This Nation Shall Endure, p. 23) [but an LDS manual says most of its members are of the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh, thus they are not Gentiles].

579 - we may end with a fully socialized America.

580 - this land (USA) is reserved only for righteous people [what about Mexico?]. The United States was a great Christian nation.

582 - this country needs men in government who acknowledge their debt to the Almighty [Latter-day Saints are taught they still owe the debt to Jesus Christ].

584 - celestial fire (freedom, faith, conscience) has been planted into our hearts.

585 - to a great extent, we have been a God-fearing, Christ-worshipping people.

587 - the destiny of the United States was forged long before the earth was even created. America had to be free and independent to fulfil this destiny. The Garden of Eden was in the United States.

588 - Adam will return to meet with the leaders of his people (D&C 101:53-57). America was the place of three great civilizations (Adam, Jaredites, and Nephites). America would be the land for the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven (Ether 13:3) [there are two New Jerusalems in LDS theology. One will supposedly be built in Missouri]. Jesus redeemed the United States by the shedding of blood (D&C 101:80). Jesus is the God of the USA (Conference Report, April 1944, Improvement Era, May 1944, 287).

589 - the true Church of Christ and as members of Christian nations.

593 - our Creator endowed us with certain rights at birth. These are divine rights.

595 - LDS President George Albert Smith indicated that the Constitution fulfilled the ancient prophecy of Isaiah that out of Zion shall go forth the law ... and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Improvement Era, October 1945, 564) [but there was no Zion in the US and no free government in Jerusalem in 1776]. We were endowed with a constitutional republic [but the USA is now a democracy - this is different from a republic].

596 - Columbus, the Pilgrim Fathers, and the War of Independence was foreseen by the prophets (1 Nephi 13:101-19) [the Book of Mormon mentions only one person who saw this]. God provided 40 years - 1789, the year the Constitution was ratified to 1829, the year the priesthood was restored - so the new nation could grow in strength to protect the land of Zion (Conference Report, October 1979, Ensign, November 1979, 31) [in the Bible, Jesus did not allow Israel to grow in strength to protect his newly-founded church].

Constitution of the United States is the only one in the world bearing the stamp of approval of Jesus (D&C 101:76-80).

597 - the Constitution of the United States was made only for a moral and righteous people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. The Constitution was conceived to be an expression of higher law.

597-598 - LDS President George Albert Smith said the Constitution is just as much from Heavenly Father as the Ten Commandments (Conference Report, April 1948, p. 182).

598 - the Constitution is the greatest document of freedom ever written (D&C 101:77, 80).

599 - references to God's influence in the noble efforts of the Founding Fathers are not mentioned by modern historians.

600 - principles of the Christian religion are the foundation of the Constitution. Human nature has tendency to exercise unrighteous dominion.

601 - in the Declaration of Independence, there is an appeal to the "Supreme Judge of the world" and to "the laws of nature and nature's God".

601-602 - history records that even the climate was tempered for their sakes ... Isaiah 35:1 [this was applicable to the Jews in the Old Testament but not Christians in the New Testament Church or Americans in the United States. This was also reference on page 483. But I do not recall any climate changing for the Founding Fathers or the Book of Mormon people].

602 - our allegiance does not run to any man - king, dictator, or president. Allegiance to the sovereignty of God.

603 - Founding Fathers appeared in the St. George Temple and asked Wilford Woodruff twice why the work hadn't been done for them. The Founding Fathers appeared within those sacred walls of the St. George Temple and had their vicarious work done for them. Spirits of the dead gathered around Mr. Woodruff.

604 - temple work for the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence and other Founding Fathers has been done. All these appeared to Wilford Woodruff when he was President of the St. George Temple. President George Washington was ordained a high priest at that time. John Wesley, Benjamin Franklin, and Christopher Columbus were also ordained high priests at that time [the LDS do not realize that there was only one high priest at a time. Also, only mortal men were ordained to the office of high priest only when the previous one had died. No one was ordained after they died].

The restoration of the gospel and the establishment of the Lord's Church could not come to pass until the Founding Fathers ... completed their foreordained missions [this is not how Jesus operated with the church he established nearly 2000 years ago. He did not need a reformation to occur in the Roman Empire. The LDS Church seems unaware that the real growth of Christ's church happens through persecution].

605 - the Constitution guarantees a republican form of government to every state of the union. The Constitution has been amended 26 times.

606-607 - the right to move freely at home and abroad. Basic in our beliefs is free agency, the right of choice. Our most cherished rights--the right of assembly [but Latter-day Saints can only go to worship in the ward designated for them. They are not allowed to switch membership in another ward unless authorized by the bishop. On the other hand, Christians can go to a church across town for worship as they want, even if they live right across the street from one].

607 - right of property (D&C 134:2; Alma 44:5; Matthew 5:5; Isaiah 14:1) [Alma 44:5 says, "And now, Zerahemnah, I command you, in the name of that all-powerful God, who has strengthened our arms that we have gained power over you, by our faith, by our religion, and by our rites of worship, and by our church, and by the sacred support which we owe to our wives and our children, by that liberty which binds us to our lands and our country; yea, and also by the maintenance of the sacred word of God, to which we owe all our happiness; and by all that is most dear unto us". I don't see anything about right of property here].

Utopian and communitarian schemes that eliminate property rights are contrary to the pursuit of happiness [but the LDS version of the United Order was to order them to give all surpluses into the hands of the bishop so that he could distribute it to the needy. The was like a utopia or commune].

609 - support separation of church and state so as not to create an official national religion.

614 - US foreign policy should not influence the political life of other countries. LDS President John Taylor said the people shall tear to shreds the Constitution of the United States [hang by a thread].

616 - Gentiles established the Constitution [apparently there was no one in the lineage of Ephraim or Manasseh]. Three keys to avoid deception -- first, the scriptures; second, the words of the prophets; third, the Holy Ghost [but former LDS prophets have deceived people with their teachings].

617 - opposed to any attempt to deny the people their right to bear arms.

618 - believe in an equal taxation rate. It is a violation of the Constitution if you commit men, arms, or money to the control of foreign or world organizations or governments. When the Lord comes, the Stars and Stripes will be floating on the breeze over this people [I don't get this impression after reading 'The Coming of the Lord' by Gerald N. Lund].

618-619 - the Lord gave Joseph Smith a revelation of an attempt to overthrow the country by destroying the Constitution ... hang by a thread (Journal of Discourses 7:15).

619 - the devil has successfully neutralized much of the LDS priesthood to sleeping giants. For years we have heard of the role the elders could play in saving the Constitution from total destruction [hang by a thread].

620 - America [or more specifically the United States] is the Lord's base of operations. Joseph Smith is reported to have prophesied the role the priesthood might play to save our inspired Constitution [hang by a thread]. Only in an environment of freedom was it possible to have established the restored church [this is not the way Jesus established his church in the New Testament]. We should perpetuate freedom so that the church may more easily flourish in the future [tell that to the underground church in China. It has flourished greatly in heavy persecution. I have heard it said that it has grown to over ten times the entire LDS membership in the last one hundred years].

- 621 - two great American Christian civilizations--the Jaredites and the Nephites were swept off the land because they did not serve the God of the land, which is Jesus Christ (Ether 2:12) [there is some archaeological evidence for Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome but nothing for the supposed existence of the Jaredites and Nephites. The same could be said of Atlantis].
- 622 - use your religious influence to affect the vote (History of the Church, 5:286).
- 623 - Joseph Smith saw a Constitutional crisis. This would be similar to the pre-mortal crisis about agency. He prophesied this nation would be on the very verge of crumbling to pieces [hang by a thread].
- 625 - the Declaration of Independence declared for all nations the source of man's rights.
- 627 - the founders were delivered by God out of the hands of all other nations (1 Nephi 13:19; Conference Report, October 1987, Ensign, November 1987, 4) [1 Nephi 13:19 says, "And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations". But the founders came primarily from England. Which 'other' nations does Mr. Benson have in mind?].
- 630 - charity is not charity until it is voluntary [tithing is not voluntary in LDS theology. It is mandatory].
- 638 - root of our money evil is government. Federal Reserve Board.
- 640 - gradual dissipation of our gold reserves.
- 650 - agriculture is a cornerstone of the American way.
- 653 - we are God's literal offspring.
- 654 - almost 6,000 years had passed since Adam's exile from Eden. Freedom must be established before restoration of the church [the New Testament Church did fine under the oppression of the Roman Empire].
- 655 - this is a choice land -- all of America -- choice above all others (1 Nephi 2:20).
- 656 - freedom is a law of God. Our position on freedom (free agency) helped us get to this earth [Mormons teach that some of their other brothers and sisters live on different earths].

- 658 - book "Prophets, Principles, and National Survival" by Jerreld L. Newquist; details about church positions of vital issues. Free agency determined whether you received a body. War in Heaven. Losers eternally damned. The errors of asking for a king (1 Samuel 8:5-22) [according to the Book of Mormon (one example in Mosiah 2:30), the appointment of kings was not viewed by the people as wickedness. It seems it was a desirous attribute for the Nephites and Lamanites to have. But the people in the Bible understood that having a human king was sinful – a sign of the rejection of God as the true king (1 Samuel 8:1-9; 10:19-22; 12:17-19). The false prophets of the Book of Mormon did not teach the people this truth].
- 659 - War in Heaven. God's living mouthpiece has spoken to us -- are we for him or against him? [Mormons are taught to follow their living President. But it is clear to see that they have led people astray with their teachings].
- 660 - Gentiles established the Constitution. The purpose of life is to prove ourselves. The final victory will be for freedom (Abraham 3:24-25).
- 661 - human liberty was the paramount issue in the great Council in Heaven.
- 663 - the Lord revealed to Nephi that he established the Gentiles on this land to be a free people forever; they would inherit the land forever (1 Nephi 14:1-2) [but Latter-day Saints believe America was the land inheritance for Manasseh and Ephraim].
- 664 - the Declaration of Independence appeals to the supreme Judge of the world.
- 669 - reasons why the Roman Empire fell.
- 671 - human rights either come from God or the government. Human rights given by the government can be taken away.
- 672 - the creature cannot exceed the creator [in LDS theology, a human created by God on our Earth can become a God or Goddess too -- creating humans on another planet].
- 677 - we have the revelations of the Almighty to indicate to us whether a thing is right or wrong [there was no LDS revelation to indicate whether the priesthood ban on the Negro was right or wrong]. Man's paternal origin is from God. The first worldly government began as a theocracy. Adam's descendants soon departed from this perfect order [the perfect order existed in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve followed the devil and this perfect order ceased to exist. There is no record that Adam and Eve had children before the Fall so they did not experience this perfect order either. When children were born to Adam and Eve, they were already shut out from God's presence. They were born with a fallen nature].

681 - don't turn over the American armed forces to the United Nations. Lies can take place by omission as well as by commission [I wonder if that explains why the LDS Church omits older teachings from current training manuals].

682 - one world government.

683 - patriotism and America-first have become vulgar concepts.

The eternal moral laws must be adhered to or individual liberty will perish [some Mormons honor Eve for her rebellion in the Garden of Eden.

"Neither Adam nor Eve partook of the fruit because they loved Satan more than God or because they wanted to rebel against God. Elder Dallin H. Oaks taught: "It was Eve who first transgressed the limits of Eden in order to initiate the conditions of mortality. Her act, whatever its nature, was formally a transgression but eternally a glorious necessity to open the doorway toward eternal life. Adam showed his wisdom by doing the same. And thus Eve and "Adam fell that men might be" (2 Nephi 2:25). Some Christians condemn Eve for her act, concluding that she and her daughters are somehow flawed by it. Not the Latter-day Saints! Informed by revelation, we celebrate Eve's act and honor her wisdom and courage in the great episode, called the Fall ...

Brigham Young declared, 'We should never blame Mother Eve, not the least' (in Journal of Discourses, 13:145). Elder Joseph Fielding Smith said: 'I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin ... This was a transgression of the law, but not a sin ... for it was something that Adam and Eve had to do!' (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:114–15]" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 98; or Ensign, Nov. 1993, 73). Joseph Smith taught that it was not a "sin," because God had decreed it (see The Words of Joseph Smith, ed. Andrew F. Ehat and Lyndon W. Cook, Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 1980, p. 63).
<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1993/10/the-great-plan-of-happiness?lang=eng>

General Conference, October 1993, "The Great Plan of Happiness", Elder Dallin H. Oaks.

<http://www.ldsces.org/manuals/pearl-of-great-price-student-manual/pgp-2-m4-07.asp>
Pearl of Great Price Student Manual - Religion 327; Moses 4:7 - 19 - The Fall of Adam and Eve.

Eve had broken a law of God and lost her liberty to the devil. But other LDS teachings contradict Joseph Smith and the above Mormons. See <http://ldslearning.org/original-sin.htm>].

The LDS should be proactively involved in the political process.

685 - study the voting records of your elected officials.

688 - the extermination order issued by the Missouri governor - 12,000 citizens were exiled.

689 - America, a great Christian nation. The Monroe Doctrine - any attempt for European kings to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere is dangerous to our peace and safety.

690 - it is a good maneuver to launch a preemptive strike on the grounds of self-defense.

695 - world government.

696 - we must be willing to use our military might to help even one of our citizens, no matter where he might be kidnapped or enslaved (An Enemy Hath Done This, p. 152).

697 - the fall of the United States might usher in the Dark Ages like the fall of Rome.

698-699 - comparing the United States with the United Nations. United Nations is for unlimited government.

699 - serve the God of this land, Jesus Christ (see Ether 2:8-10).

702 - there were only a handful of men on the earth when Cain interrupted the peace of Adam's household by slaying Abel [the Pearl of Great Price says that Cain conspired with his brothers and sisters to kill Abel]. The whole city of Enoch was taken up to heaven because it was made up of righteous people [the Book of Mormon records a period, about 34 AD to 201 AD - where the people lived a gospel life. Verse 16 says, "And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God". These people were seemingly more better than the people of Enoch and yet their city was not taken up to heaven. Some Mormons believe the city of Enoch used to be where the Gulf of Mexico now is].

It is a falsehood that we should limit the population to ensure plenty (see D&C 104:17).

704 - until all nations follow the concept of limited government, it is unlikely that universal peace will ever be realized on this planet. US foreign policy.

705 - War in Heaven over free agency (Conference Report, April 1964, Improvement Era, June 1964, 504). We occupy the same star in space [do you consider the planet Earth as a star?]. Peace must come from within [Jesus is the Prince of Peace].

706 - the Latter-day Saints should be a leaven to raise the spirituality and faith of the people [Jesus warned his followers to beware the leaven of the Pharisees].

The end.