

Book Review - Answers to Gospel Questions - Volume 3

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

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

Introduction

- 1 - the law of sacrifice started with Adam [it started with the Levites].
- 2 - water was substituted for wine in the sacrament (D&C 27:2-4). Whispering or other conversation during the sacrament is a sin.
- 3 - three great covenants are made when partaking of these tokens a) take upon yourself the name of the Son b) always remember him c) keep his commandments [this is also discussed in Teachings of Presidents of the Church - Joseph Fielding Smith - chapter 6.

Remission of our individual sins comes through obedience. We are spiritually begotten sons and daughters of Jesus Christ [Latter-day Saints also believe they are spiritually begotten sons of Heavenly Mother and Father].

- 4 - Christ made atonement because of his love. Eternal life is to dwell in the presence of God [many Mormons will not inherit eternal life].
- 6 - many passages in the Bible point to a prophet being called in the last days. The Bible is filled with predictions of a universal apostasy. The Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.
- 7 - no restitution without prophets. There is no authority without a divine call. There would be a coming of a new dispensation wherein prophets would speak and say: "Thus saith the Lord" [you don't hear much talk like this in the LDS Church these days]. The book "Voice of Warning" is about fulfilled prophecies in the mission of Joseph Smith.
- 9 - John the Baptist came in the Dispensation of the Meridian of Times. There is another one called the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. The Lord will come suddenly to his temple.

10 - the Lord did come suddenly to his temple on April 3 1836 [Jehovah's Witnesses say the Lord came another year]. The keys for gathering Israel were restored by Moses that day. Elias and Elijah also came that day. The great evidence showing that the hearts of the children have turned to their fathers is genealogical research and seeking after the dead [but the prophecy is not talking about dead people. And, the dead fathers are not doing proxy work for their living progeny].

No one except Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery ever claimed that Elijah came to them ... so we must look to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery for the fulfillment of this prediction [but no one but the Jehovah's Witnesses ever made the claim that Jesus returned in 1914 or 1975].

No one except Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery ever claimed to have the keys of the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times restored to them. The Lord will do nothing without revealing it to his servants and prophets [but former LDS President Kimball did not know why the Negroes were banned from the priesthood before 1978. Or maybe he was not willing to admit it in his interview with Time Magazine].

The Christian world has closed the heavens against themselves. They have declared that there is to be no more revelation, coming of angels, or visions. [I believe this statement is based on maybe the opinions of a few Christians who apparently have influenced Mormon thought. But God can do what he wants. I believe in revelation, the coming of angels, and visions and I am not a Mormon].

12 - in the days of the kingdoms (represented by the toes in the vision of King Nebuchadnezzar), the God of Heaven would set up another kingdom. This kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is also the stone cut out of the mountain. It will eventually take preeminence upon the face of the earth [Mormons do not understand that the toes of the vision represents one last kingdom that will exist before the stone smashes it. Each of the elements represents only one kingdom, not many. The previous four kingdoms were Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Rome. They all controlled the land of Palestine. I suspect the last kingdom may also have some type of control over that region if it follows the pattern of the other four. It seems that Mormons believe the toes represents the kingdoms of Russia, China, Canada, United States, Japan, France, Mexico, Germany, etc ... but this is not correct].

Only Joseph Smith made the claim that the setting up of the kingdom (the Church of Jesus Christ) has ever been revealed. The restored unadulterated gospel must be here before the second coming of the Lord.

13 - only Joseph Smith and no one else ever proclaimed to the world that such power, keys, and authority were bestowed upon him [this is the same Joseph Smith who led people to worship a false god; for he taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became God. This has led Mormons to believe they also will become Gods of their own worlds ... where their procreated spirit children will worship them as they worship their own exalted man - the false god of planet Earth].

16 - it is a false doctrine which prevails in the world that children have to be cleansed from original sin [is it a false doctrine that children have to be redeemed from original sin?]. The posterity of Adam in no way whatever is subject to original sin [this is incorrect. The posterity of Adam suffers from the original sin of Adam in that they born mortal and separated from God. Even the Book of Mormon mentions this as a punishment. See Alma 42]. There is no act required of them to cleanse them from such a sin [But the cross of Christ cleanses them from the fall].

The Lord has informed us in very positive language that little children are not under the penalty of any sin [this is incorrect. The posterity of Adam suffers from the original sin of Adam in that they born mortal and separated from God].

18 - the law of purification did not exist before the time of Moses.

20 - the atonement of Jesus Christ takes care of little children before the age of accountability [this is because they suffered the effects of the Fall].

21 - they are redeemed without baptism and they go to the Celestial Kingdom [they need to be redeemed because they suffered the effects of the Fall].

23 - if a single divorced woman remains faithful and true, the Lord will take her faith and devotion into account and reward her according to her works.

24 - the laws of the Christian world include a bill of divorcement with every marriage [I don't exactly know what this means but even Mormons get divorced, even if they have already married in their temple]. A faithful wife, if she marries a man who is rebellious or who is unwilling to obey the will of the Lord, will be given to another husband in eternity [it is not clear if she becomes the polygamous wife of a married man who already has one or more wives, or if she is given to a Mormon male who also died in a single state].

25 - observance of the laws of the Lord are so essential to exaltation [in LDS theology, this means becoming a god].

- 26 - an immortal kingdom with laws that have been proved through the eternities. Eternal things have been tried and tested and therefore are eternal [Joseph Smith taught that eternal intelligences were organized somehow into becoming spirit children of Heavenly Mother and Father. So technically, spirits are not eternal].
- 27 - there came a rebellion once with rebellious results, and there had to be a cleansing.
- 28 - a testimony is the impression or speaking of the Holy Ghost to the soul. The history of the Nephite nation is contained in the Book of Mormon [even though archaeology has not been able to provide one shred of evidence].
- 29-30 - LDS members who don't have a testimony are easily deceived ... in danger of turning away to false doctrines and theories of men [even though the Latter-day Saints have a testimony in Joseph Smith being a prophet of the restoration, they have been deceived into following his false god - for he taught God was once a man who became a God. If you want to read a book filled with false doctrines and the theories of men, the 1997 version of Gospel Principles comes to mind].
- 31 - a testimony is the only way to know Jesus is the Christ.
- 32 - knowledge of the pre-existence. The rebellion turned away one-third of the spirits in heaven [apparently Satan was not able to turn away any of the angels]. Ancient scriptures have come to us with the knowledge of the pre-existence in a state of fog. Many of the clearest and most precious truths were eliminated through Satan's power [this is a favourite mantra of the Mormons when criticizing the Bible. The so-called fog of pre-existence is not even mentioned in their own Book of Mormon. But I don't know of any Mormon who would say Satan's power was over the Book of Mormon too].
- 34 - Moses 3:4-5 is used to support the pre-existence [because Satan's power presumably removed it from the Book of Mormon].
- 35 - Lucifer rebelled and led away one-third of the spirits, and they were cast out with him [it seems Lucifer was not able to take any of God's angels].
- 36 - there was a punishment for rebellion. Spirits have to come into this world for the purpose of receiving bodies of flesh and bones, tabernacles for their eternal spirits [in LDS theology, intelligences are eternal. But somehow they were organized into procreated spirit children. So technically, spirits are not eternal].

40 - wherever a person is legally baptized, there is the Church. The kingdom of God and the Church are synonymous [the 1997 version of Gospel Principles says the Church was destroyed even though Joseph Smith said the apostle John would live on the earth until Jesus comes again].

41 - Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for rejecting the prophets (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 271) [the identity of these prophets is not specified]. Confirmation is receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The church organization endured all through the Nephite history, notwithstanding the constant apostasies that occurred among them [according to LDS theology, the Nephites existed from about 600 B.C to 420 A.D., about 1,000 years. So there was no total apostasy for all that time. But they teach that the church only existed in Palestine between about 30 A.D. and then it was destroyed by evil men when the apostles were killed, about 70-100 A.D. Do you notice the huge difference? About 1000 years versus about 70 years].

42 - John 3 says Jesus baptized people.

44 - three days of darkness (1 Nephi 19:10; Helaman 14:20-21).

45 - this greater period of darkness and terrible punishment came upon the people in the Western Hemisphere because of their extreme wickedness and because they had, in the course of a very few years, turned away from the truth to follow Satan [this is a convenient explanation but it fails several tests.

a) it contradicts Mr. Smith's earlier teaching that the church organization endured all through the Nephite history.

b) LDS theology says the church did not exist in Palestine before Jesus came to establish it, because it has suffered a total apostasy in Old Testament times.

c) The Book of Mormon records that the Jews in Palestine were the most wicked of people on earth. See 2 Nephi 10:3 - "Wherefore, as I said unto you, it must needs be expedient that Christ, for in the last night the angel spake unto me that this should be his name should come among the Jews, among those who are the more wicked part of the world; and they shall crucify him; for thus it behooveth our God, and there is none other nation on earth that would crucify their God".

d) 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. In fact, some people were raised to life and appeared in the city. The only people that died were Jesus and the two hanging with him. This is the only thing that happened to the nation of Israel at the time that they had

personally rejected him in his brief three year ministry. The Jews had committed the greater crime in their rejection of Jesus than those in Rome who only heard of his message and had rejected it.

So you can see that the Book of Mormon events are really a fabrication].

The birth of the Savior came with no darkness for three days on the American continent [there was no such thing in Palestine. But I was surprised to see that Mr. Smith did not say this was because the people in the Western Hemisphere were better people than those in Palestine].

- 46 - Satan offered to save all the children of our Eternal Father, without any exception, on the terms that our Eternal Father would surrender his throne to him [I could not find this in the Mormon scriptures].
- 47 - the use of narcotics, liquors, and other drugs and stimulants inevitably weakens and impairs the functions of the body, thus shortening the span of life [maybe Coke and Pepsi will make the list of drinks to avoid someday in the LDS Church].
- 48 - it is true that some have been "called home" by sudden death. This was the case with the prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. It was decreed in the heavens that their passing from this world should be by martyrdom [but Joseph Smith was not in jail for his faith in Jesus Christ]. They had to seal their testimony with their blood and make that testimony binding upon an unbelieving world. We cannot in truth declare that all the righteous dead were "called home" by divine decree [but Mormon scriptures do not say that it was decreed in the heavens that Joseph Smith should die by shooting or that Adam and Eve should disobey God in the Garden of Eden].
- 50 - at the second coming, all who cannot live in peace with their neighbours and worship Jesus will be removed [won't anyone be killed in the great battle?].
- 52 - the Lord said he cleansed this American continent by the shedding of blood and justified the American colonists in their war of the American Revolution. People must obey the laws of the land and take up arms. The Lord will justify them because they are subject to the law of the country where they live and of necessity have to obey the law.
- 57 - it would be fatal for Joseph Smith to have invented the First Vision story because it only would have brought condemnation on his head [seriously? What do you think would happen to a 15 year old boy today who claimed Jesus and Heavenly Father appeared to him saying all the churches were wrong? What fatal thing would happen to that boy? What condemnation would happen to that boy? More specifically, what would happen if that 15 year old boy said Jesus came to see him and told him Muhammad was not a prophet?].

58 - it was too revolutionary and it conflicted universally with all of the religious creeds that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to a young boy [really? Which religious creed says Heavenly Father and the Son are not two personages?].

He [Joseph Smith] might have said that the Son of God appeared to him, but this is something very remote considering the universal belief [what is so remote about such an idea? Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus].

58-59 - the interaction between the Father and the Son ("This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him!") is proof that Joseph Smith was telling the truth [not really. He borrowed this verse from the Bible].

59 - a great truth which had been lost by the world, in relation to the separate personalities of the Father and the Son [this truth was not lost. It is in the Bible].

60 - there are scores of passages which show separate personages of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Only apostasy and the rejection of the doctrines of Jesus could have placed the world in such a state of darkness [but there were Christians living before the birth of the Mormon leader who believed Heavenly Father and Jesus were separate personages because that is what the Bible teaches. This great truth was not lost, but there were some cults whose false teachings reached the ears of Joseph Smith; so he lumped all of them into the category of 'the world'].

61 - no one can lay claim to be of perfect descent from father to son through just one lineage.

62 - the world would be blessed in Abraham (in his priesthood) and his seed (in his priesthood) [a reference to Abraham 2:9-11 is given. But Abraham's seed is Jesus. The world would be blessed in this way].

No one is a direct descendant through Ephraim ... without having acquired the blood of some other tribe in Israel [but former LDS President Brigham Young said, "The Book of Mormon came to Ephraim, for Joseph Smith was a pure Ephraimite, and the Book of Mormon was revealed to him" - Journal of Discourses 2:268-269)]. When Israel came out of Egypt, Moses separated them into twelve tribes.

When the ten tribes were taken away into Assyria, it does not mean that all of the members of these ten tribes were transported and that none remained.

63 - God would bless the Gentiles with the blood of Abraham [Latter-day Saints really like to focus on the blood]. Today, we are gathering out ... the scattered sheep of the House of Israel. These scattered sheep are coming forth mixed with Gentile blood from their Gentile forefathers. The Book of Mormon states Joseph Smith the Prophet was a descendant of Joseph, son of Jacob [some Mormons teach he was of the lineage of Nephi, through Manasseh. See "Book of Mormon Study Guide" in 2 Nephi 3 section <https://www.lds.org/manual/book-of-mormon-student-study-guide/2-nephi-3?lang=eng>

By revelation, we learn also that he is of the tribe of Ephraim, but it is evident that he also had some Gentile blood in him, for it is written in the Book of Mormon, that it came forth, "by the way of the Gentile," and it came by Joseph Smith (1 Nephi 13:35, 39) [but the study guide above shows that Joseph Smith is in the lineage of Manasseh].

64 - the Patriarch gives blessings by directing the lineage that predominates [but Manasseh predominates Ephraim in the case of Joseph Smith because he is supposedly a descendant of Nephi, through Lehi, from the tribe of Manasseh].

One of the best examples of this difference in blood is recorded in the Book of Genesis. It is the birth of Esau and Jacob. They were twin brothers, yet, according to what is revealed, they were as far apart as though they had been born to parents of different nationalities. Perhaps this is explained by Mendel's Law governing the differences in parental offspring (the context is that patriarchs sometimes say that all members of a family are of Ephraim, whereas one son is of Manasseh) [Esau and Jacob were different, but this did not have to do with their blood. They were favourites of their mother and father respectively, thus a conflict arose].

65 - women speaking in churches.

66 - Miriam was a prophetess. So as Deborah.

67 - in the days of Paul, however, it was the universal custom that women should play no part in political government or minister in churches.

68 - it was an ordinance that women were not permitted to teach, even ask questions in any of their assemblies [an ordinance of God?]. Relief Society came by divine revelation. This is also true of the Mutual Improvement and Primary organizations. The foolish notions which were practiced by the Jews and others anciently have no place in the kingdom of God today [it sounds like Mr. Smith is calling Paul a fool. Earlier he said it was an ordinance but does not say if it came from God or from men. If you read the Book of Mormon, these 'foolish notions' are found there too. Despite the Mormon

praise for their Relief Societies, the LDS Church does not permit women to baptize new believers after teaching them. This is because they do not believe women are in the royal priesthood of believers and so have no authority to baptize].

70 - when there was no sacred temple, the Lord made himself manifest to the prophets of old, in sacred places and most generally on mountain tops.

70-71 - Peter, James, and John were on the mountain when they were endowed and received their great vision [there is no scriptural indication that they were endowed].

71 - the priesthood was restored in the wilderness in this dispensation because there was no temple. In cases of emergency the Lord used such places as groves, the wilderness, or the highest mountains, there to reveal himself and bestow the keys of the priesthood to his prophets. After the Kirtland Temple was erected and after its dedication, many of the ancient prophets came and bestowed the keys of their dispensations.

72 - the baptismal font to proxy baptize for the dead must be underneath where the living are wont to assemble (D&C 128:12-13).

74 - the Book of Commandments was destroyed in July 1833. The first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants was published in Kirtland, Ohio.

75 - God permitted Satan to remove many of the plain and precious parts of the records and writings of the ancient prophets [I wonder if this applies to the Pearl of Great Price and the Book of Mormon too].

77 - Abraham was promised that the blessings of the gospel and the priesthood should descend through his lineage to the latest times [what lineage specifically?].

78 - through the hard work of Latter-day Saints in secular jobs, modern Zion has been built and prospered.

79 - we do not have a paid ministry. The LDS brethren put in as much time in spiritual and Church duties as do ministers of other denominations who devote their entire time [this seems to be a childish statement but let's proceed with some foolish thinking. Let's compare a Mormon bishop and a Catholic priest in a simple example. Assume both sleep 7 hours a day. There are 17 hours available for spiritual duties. The Mormon bishop works an 8 hour day and probably has 1 hour of travelling time with his job. He has lost 9 hours. So now it is Catholic priest 17, bishop 8. The Catholic priest usually lives at the parish or very close to it, so there is minimal travel time. So its easy to see that the bishop really does not put in as much time in spiritual

duties as the Catholic priest. Even a Mormon mother who takes care of her children and is also involved in the Relief Society spends more time than her Mormon bishop. In the grand scheme of things, such a comparison is really childish in light of reaping and sowing but I only bring it up to counter the Mormon statement earlier].

80 - Satan exercises his power to deceive and lead mankind astray [the first example is Moses 5:13; after the expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Other examples are also provided; Moses 1:12-13 and 2 Nephi 28:19-22. It is odd however that the primary example of the deception in the Garden of Eden itself is not mentioned].

80-81 - Satan did all in his power to destroy the Prophet Joseph Smith before the coming of the Father and the Son [was the devil stupid enough to plot his one and only attack on Smith in the grove or did he try to kill Joseph Smith before the day he visited the grove? Really think about this. If Satan did 'all in his power' to destroy someone, would he only attack him once?].

83 - Satan is not permitted to answer our prayer if we have the spirit of humility and faith to approach our Father for his blessings.

85 - the Lord will not permit Satan to deceive the earnest seeker after truth when he sincerely prays [when you honestly compare the Bible and the Book of Mormon - see comparing-the-bible-and-book-of-mormon.pdf - it is not difficult to see who is behind the deception].

86 - through the mercy of Christ, resurrection is a free gift to all.

90 - the final resurrection is for the unworthy.

91 - John the Apostle has not yet received the resurrection for he was promised he should remain until the second coming of Christ. The general resurrection is not going on now.

92 - Moroni came to Joseph Smith in all the glory of the resurrection (Elders Manual, volume I, pp. 28-29; Documentary History, volume III, 28).

92-93 - John and the three Nephites were translated beings; this is different from resurrected persons.

93 - John the Revelator is still in this translated state. There is a statement in the Gospel of John which intimates that the Lord gave him power to remain until the second coming. A revelation in Doctrine and Covenants 7 confirms this thought [this is incorrect. The Bible records a question posed by Jesus and the disciples thought it meant that John would remain alive, but this is

not what Jesus said. Joseph Smith misunderstood the biblical passage].

If Peter and James had come to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery as spirits, they would not have laid their lands upon them when restoring the priesthood [why not? In the Joseph Smith translation of the Bible, Genesis 6:67 says the Holy Spirit baptized Adam. "And it came to pass, when the Lord had spoken with Adam our father, that Adam cried unto the Lord, and he was caught away by the Spirit of the Lord, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water; and thus he was baptized"].

95 - many truths related to exaltation will not be revealed in mortality [this is a convenient reason Mormons use to explain why many Mormon teachings are not found in their Book of Mormon].

96 - the fulness of the gospel means all that is needful to direct people ... to a fulness of the blessings of the kingdom of God [direction means something totally different than content].

97 - in the Book of Mormon we find the clearest statement on the resurrection of the dead [not on the resurrection of Christ]. Certain truths do not appear in the Book of Mormon, Bible, or any published books [Latter-day Saints do not accept everything published in their church manuals or magazines as doctrine. But they still must decide if these teachings are true or false]. There was no baptism for the dead until after the resurrection of our Lord [this would not explain how the Old Testament font, used for washings by the priests before or after the blood sacrifices, became transformed into proxy baptizing dead people].

100 - when Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, there was no blood in their bodies. When Adam fell, all living things became mortal.

101 - the Lord gave Noah and his posterity the privilege of eating the flesh of living creatures [what privilege did Adam have after he was expelled from the Garden of Eden?].

103 - mortality came when blood was created. Blood is the agent of mortality. Have we ever stopped to think of the deplorable condition this mortal world was in due to the partaking of the fruit by Adam? [but Latter-day Saints teach great blessings were the result - see Gospel Principles, 1997, chapter 6. The Mormon scriptures even has Adam and Eve praising God for their disobedience - "And in that day Adam blessed God and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth, saying: Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God. And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: Were it not for

our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient"].

No doubt Satan felt that he had accomplished in bringing death [well, it was actually the Mormon god who had accomplished his plan to bring mortality into the world - the devil was used to fulfil his part. That is why some Mormons do not view Adam and Eve's act as a sin].

104 - when Jesus rose from the tomb, he was free from blood, and his body had become subject to eternal law henceforth and forever [LDS theology also has Jesus shedding blood in the Garden of Gethsemane]. There are sins which cannot be forgiven except by the guilty person paying a price by the shedding of his blood [apparently Jesus' atonement cannot forgive someone of these sins]. Capital punishment was to benefit the guilty to obtain a better resurrection when the sin had been one unto death [if you had killed someone on purpose, how will you get a better resurrection than if you had died at an old age instead?].

107 - the image of the angel [Moroni] on the temple is symbolical of the angel flying through the midst of heaven (Revelation 14:6) [this teaching is also repeated in the 1997 version of Gospel Principles on page 106. But Moroni did not fly in the midst of heaven preaching to those that dwell on the earth. Latter-day Saints would do well to read the next verse. The angel is preaching a message of "Fear God, and give glory to Him" and that judgment is coming, not a restoration of the gospel. If you read the rest of Revelation chapter 14, five more angels followed the first one, with more messages of judgment. This didn't happen with the LDS story of the angel Moroni.

Joseph Smith apparently had some other ideas. It was four angels who had the everlasting gospel, and it was Elias (the angel ascending from the east) who was crying unto them not to hurt the earth (D&C 77:8-9).

108 - cherubims were made and placed on the Ark of the Covenant by the command of the Lord [but God did not command the Latter-day Saints to put a statue of an angel on Mormon temples].

113 - we are called upon to accept many truths on faith, and yet through the aid of the Spirit, we know they are true [but I know some Mormons that do not accept all their church teaching as the truth]. There will enter there [in the Celestial Kingdom] many who are entitled to be only servants [in LDS theology, some Mormons will be the servants of those Mormons who become gods and goddesses].

Children cannot be punished for what they have not done [but Adam's posterity were punished indirectly when they were born with a fallen nature]. The Savior has redeemed them [those who die in infancy] from Satan's power [they needed redemption because they inherited the fallen nature].

116 - Jesus did appear to the Prophet Joseph Smith when he was a youth and when there was no mortal man on the earth holding that priesthood [Latter-day Saints teach John was living on the earth at the time but as a non-mortal translated being].

117 - it should be remembered that the entire Christian world in 1820 had lost the true doctrine concerning God. All the ancient prophets and the apostles of Jesus Christ had a clear understanding that the Father and the Son were separate personages, as our scriptures so clearly teach. Through apostasy, this knowledge was lost, and in the year 325 AD, a strange doctrine was introduced and soon spread throughout the Christian world. This doctrine confounded the persons of the Godhead, and distorted the true doctrine of God, so that in the year 1820, God had become a mystery, and both the Father and the Son were considered to be one unknowable effusion of spirit, without body, parts, and passions. The coming of the Father and the Son [to Joseph Smith] placed on earth a divine witness who was able by knowledge to restore to the world the true nature of God [apparently the translated version of the Apostle John either did not have this knowledge or he was forbidden to preach this to the world. Maybe he was a non-evangelizing evangelist].

119 - worshipping idols, animals, birds, or reptiles ... holding animals in sacred honor ... naturally, we would consider any worship of that kind to be extremely stupid, but in accord to the law of agency. The Lord gave the land to Abraham and his seed as an everlasting possession [some Mormons believe Ephraim and Manasseh were given portions of America].

The Lord has reserved to himself the right to cleanse the land whenever its inhabitants have filled the cup of their iniquity. Sometimes he calls down fire from heaven ... other times he used armies. [According to Doctrine and Covenants, it was written that the Latter-day Saints would do capture the lands by force too.

See section 103:15-28. Joseph Smith was to be the Moses-like figure to lead the Latter-day Saints out of bondage as Moses led out the children of Israel out of Egypt by power. Joseph Smith was said to be the one to gather and prepare the Mormons for battle. The warring Latter-day Saints would avenge God of his enemies through this battle. Again we are told in Doctrine and Covenants 105:16-39 that Joseph Smith would call the troops to battle. According to Doctrine and Covenants 98:33-38, the law of God stated that they were to give the offering of peace a total of three times. If all three were rejected, then they were justified in going to war.

120 - idolatry is one of the greatest abominations. Israel had to be kept free from the contaminating influences of abominable peoples [this is used to explain how Mormons view God commanding Israel to clear out indigenous peoples in their conquering phase].

122 - the dark skin was the sign of the curse. The curse was the withdrawal of the Spirit of the Lord. The Nephites should not intermarry with the Lamanites, for if they did they would partake of the curse. At the time of the Savior's visit to the Nephites, all of the people became united, and the curse and the dark skin which was its sign were removed.

123 - when people took on the name of 'Lamanites' again, the dark skin returned. When the Lamanites fully repent and sincerely receive the gospel, the Lord has promised to remove the dark skin. The dark skin of those who have come into the [LDS] Church is no longer to be considered a sign of the curse. Perhaps there are some Lamanites today who are losing the dark pigment. Many of the members of the [LDS] Church among the Catawba Indians of the South could readily pass as of the white race.

124 - matter is co-eternal with God and always existed [but Joseph Smith taught the God of planet Earth was once a man who became a God].

125 - intelligence like time and space always existed. However, intelligences spoken of in the Book of Abraham were created, for these are spirit children of God, begotten sons. Intelligences were organized [so, does create mean to organize?]. Take away the gift of free agency, and there could be no rewards or punishments; no exaltation and no condemnation [it seems condemnation is the end result for all the Mormons who do not become Gods or Goddesses].

125-126 - without the great gift of free agency, heaven would be destroyed and hell and Satan would gain the victory.

131 - Jesus cast out devils, spirits who did not keep their first estate and hence were denied the privilege of receiving bodies [in LDS theology, these devils are the spirit brothers and sisters of other spirits who came to earth to inhabit physical bodies].

Jesus placed the stamp of approval on the existence of spirits by declaring that they did not have flesh and bones as they saw he had (Luke 24:38-39) [but Joseph Smith used this same type of rationale to show Jesus was an angel. See Doctrine and Covenants 129:1,3 - "There are two kinds of beings in heaven, namely: Angels, who are resurrected personages, having bodies of flesh and bones. Secondly: the spirits of just men made perfect, they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory"].

- 132 - we all lived in the presence of God before we came here.
- 134 - the manuscripts [of the Bible] that are known are of rather decent date.
- 136 - the Lord hardening Pharaoh's heart is a mistranslation in every case.
- 138 - Adam is Michael the Archangel. Noah is Gabriel.
- 139 - Gabriel is Noah (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 157). Elias should be interpreted as Elijah (Matthew 17:1-4, 9-13; DHC, volume 3, p. 387). Gabriel then is Noah (Luke 1:11, 19, 26-27). Elias (Noah) visited Zacharias and announced the birth of John the Baptist (D&C 27:6-7).
- 140 - the term Elias means forerunner.
- 141 - Gabriel was Noah. Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and Mary. Elias appeared to Zacharias and Joseph Smith. Therefore, Elias is Noah.
- 142 - Heavenly Mother.
- 144 - is it not feasible to believe that female spirits were created in the image of a "Mother in Heaven"? [in LDS theology, 'image' means in the image of body parts].
- 145 - King David lost everything in his sin of murder even though he repented.
- 152 - Israel's land was given to Abraham for an everlasting possession [Latter-day Saints believe America was given to Ephraim for an inheritance]. The Israelites led out of Egypt were members of the Church.
- 154 - the royal priesthood is the Melchizedek Priesthood.
- 155 - the Lord did not write the same things on the second stone tablets that were on the first. The Lord gave to Israel the carnal law. The Ten Commandments were in existence long before Moses' time, and the Lord only renewed them in the days of Moses, just as he has done in our day [when did the Lord ever renew the Ten Commandments after the year 1800?]. The Bible has lost much in translations and copying by the scribes [another subtle attack on the Bible. It should be noted that Mormons believe much of what was apparently on the gold plates was not translated by Joseph Smith. Therefore, much has been lost also from the Book of Mormon if they apply the same standard].

156 - the Lord took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:19-27) [but reading this passage gives you the incorrect impression that Moses was taken out of their midst because of the sins of the people. This is not true. Moses was not permitted to enter the land of promise because of his sin at Meribah. In Numbers 20:8, the Lord told Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." Numbers 20:9-11 records "So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as He commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?' Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank." The Lord was displeased with Moses' actions: "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them" (Numbers 20:12)].

The gospel includes the law of carnal commandments.

158 - the Lord gave a revelation to President Wilford Woodruff to discontinue plural marriage [I have seen the declaration, but I have never seen the revelation]. The family is eternal. It will not come to an end at the death of the members.

159 - Catholic priests do not have authority to marry for eternity. Children are left without parents in the eternity [I guess they forgot the teaching that they are already children of Heavenly Mother and Father of planet Earth].

160 - the Lord greatly blessed and prospered those who have plural wives (ex. Abraham and Jacob) [but this does not prove it was because of polygamy]. The Israelites [a product of plural marriage] because the chosen people of God [but this does not prove it was because they were polygamous offspring]. The Lord made provision in the law sanctioning plural marriage [the Lord made a provision for Hagar but he did not command Abraham to take Hagar as a wife. The Lord also made provisions for slaves, but he did not command the Jews to take slaves]. Abraham had two or three wives, and he is spoken of in the Bible as the Friend of God [but David committed murder and many other sins. It is said of him, "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22). But God did not approve of David's sins].

161 - the holy city, the New Jerusalem, was to be established when the Lord should come to reign in his millennium [the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven after the millennium, not at the beginning of it]. Those men who had plural families in ancient times did not sin [the Book of Mormon calls it an

abomination. See Jacob 2]. The Lord taught Joseph Smith the doctrine of plural marriage and commanded him to practice it [it is believe he had over 30 wives. Apparently he was practicing plural marriage before he is said to have taught God 'revealed' it to him]. Joseph Smith also incorrectly taught Abraham married Hagar at God's command, when it fact Abraham listened to Sarah's suggestion.

In 1890, because of the enactment of laws forbidding this practice and because of the opposition on the part of all other people of the United States and throughout the so-called Christian world, the Lord instructed President Wilford Woodruff to call upon the members of the Church to discontinue the practice of plural marriage [the real reason was because Utah was going to be denied statehood to the United States if they refused to give up polygamy. The so-called Christian world did not know who the new Mormon prophet even was at that time. The same for all the people of the United States at that time. The key people objecting to plural marriages were those Americans in close proximity because the Mormons were taking their potential wives and because they viewed the practice as an abomination. The statements made by Joseph Fielding Smith are a gross overexageration].

162 - according to teachings and practice in the Church when a man and woman are married in the temple, and the wife dies, the man is at liberty to marry another wife for time and all eternity [this second wife becomes his plural wife. So polygamy is still practiced in the LDS Church even though they say it was banned in 1890. There is silence on whether a woman is allowed to marry again if her husband dies. This would mean that she also enters a plural marriage because she is sealed to at least two men for time and eternity].

It is also permissable for a man who has been divorced for good cause to marry again and have another wife sealed to him in the temple [a temple marriage is really not for all time and eternity when a person can get a divorce].

163 - when the Israelites performed temple ceremonies, it was under the Aaronic priests since the Melchizedek Priesthood was taken away.

164 - in this dispensation, the temple work is done under the direction of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

165 - Abraham became acquainted with Heavenly Father and knew him [it seems like Abraham and Joseph Smith were the only men to see Heavenly Father after the Fall]. The Athanasian Creed says God is incomprehensible. It says there is only One Eternal, not Three Eternals. The scriptures are definitely clear that the three members of the Godhead are separate and distinct from each

other [the LDS Church taught that there were only two Personages in the Godhead until 1921. See Lectures on Faith]. The Athanasian Creed states that in the Trinity, none is greater or less than another. The whole Three Persons are co-eternal and co-equal.

167 - Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh.

171 - the Catholic Church prohibited the distribution of Bibles or reading it.

174 - the Catholic Church is not the church established by our Savior. No divine revelations are given to the Pope. The Catholic Church changed ordinances and covenants.

175 - where is the revelation that was given changing this holy sacred ordinance?

176 - little children are innocent when they are born into the world, and there is no taint of any kind upon them [this is incorrect. Because of Adam's sin, they are born mortal and separated from God].

178-179 - no Catholic priest ... understands the atonement of Jesus Christ. If they did, this this abominable doctrine of original sin would be abolished [but the doctrine of original sin really means that Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. In a previous volume, even the LDS Church acknowledges this doctrine of original sin, or the sin of Adam].

Two fold nature of the atonement. Christ redeems all mankind from death. Christ redeems all from sin on certain conditions.

180 - salvation comes to those who earnestly seek it and who keep the commandments. No child was ever born who is under any taint of "original sin," or the sin of Adam. Little children have no sin, and there is no original taint upon them [Because of Adam's sin, they are tainted with mortality and they are in a state of separation from God]. The Lord never called cardinals and archbishops [Jesus never called High Priests, Ward Presidents, Mission Presidents, or Quorums].

181 - call no man father. Every priest is called a father. Their priests do not marry. Who else in the world fulfils this prediction which is in strict opposition to teachings of Paul who firmly declares that a bishop (or priest), should be a married man? [but a Mormon male can be a priest as early as 12, and he is not married].

182 - elevation and the worship of Mary. No one of the apostles ever referred to Mary much less recommend her for adoration or Godhood [I don't know any Catholics who worship Mary or recommend her for Godhood]. Restoration of Egyptian worship of Isis restored as the Virgin Mary.

- 183 - indulgences are a corruption and a fraud. Reference is made to the 18th chapter of Revelation - the harlot woman [this strongly insinuates the LDS belief that the Catholic Church is the harlot]. Catholics bow down to images and pray to them. They also seek intercession from them [as a former Catholic, I must admit that I did bow down to these images and speak to them].
- 184 - Catholics worship a portion of an olive tree carved to represent Christ [I am not aware of this].
- 185 - the 144,000 represent special groups from the tribes of Israel, twelve thousand from each tribe, who will be caught up to meet Christ at his coming.
- 187 - only those who merit celestial glory will stand before the throne of God.
- 188 - the account of Abraham (4:3) is a council meeting which was held in heaven before the world was created.
- 188-189 - Abraham's account is in the future tense.
- 189 - in the Book of Moses we read that a council was held in heaven [the word 'council' is not found in all the Pearl of Great Price]
- 190 - there was no need for Jesus to have a First Presidency. It is possible that Peter, James, and John formed a First Presidency, in addition to the Quorum of the Apostles [there is no scriptural evidence].
- 191 - from the days of Adam down to the days of Moses, there were no apostles [even the Mormon prophet Enoch was not an apostle]. During this time, the patriarchs directed and presided. When Jesus came, he added the office of 'apostle' to the priesthood. It is very possible they [Peter, James, and John] served as a First Presidency [it is also very possible they did not]. Council of the Twelve [I have not seen this office mentioned in newer LDS publications]. From the words of Paul, vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve were to be filled.
- 192 - twelve travelling counsellors are called to be the Twelve Apostles, or special witnesses ... in all the world [Jesus did not limit his church to only twelve travelling special witnesses].
- 193 - the spirit of Elijah was manifest in the days of the apostles.
- 194 - Satan must exert great power over them [evil people] when they are subject to his jurisdiction.

- 196 - as soon as the fault is discovered, an end is given to any priesthood activity by such an individual.
- 197 - the Nephites were just as much the descendants of Ephraim, for we know that Ishmael, who was the founder of the colony, was a descendant of Ephraim [which colony did Ishmael found?] This we learn from the 116 pages of the lost manuscript which was not re-translated into the Book of Mormon.
- 198 - the stick of Joseph, covering both tribes, is in the hand of Ephraim. The record ... was placed in the hand of Ephraim, for Joseph was of Ephraim. The record of Joseph is now in the hand of Ephraim ... it becomes the record of Ephraim, the the Latter-day Saints are, in the main, of Ephraim [this is also stated again in Religion 430-431 - Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual. "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", page 66].
- 199 - the father can give the patriarchal blessing to his family members if they belong to the church. These blessings are not written in the church records.
- 200 - the father is not required to get a recommend from a mission president or stake president.
- 201 - question - what to do when an elder is not available to perform a duty like administering to the sick, naming a child when it faces death shortly after birth, or giving comfort to someone in distress when that person would die without such blessings to be given since consent did not come?
- 201-202 - the father can perform the blessings in an emergency, but if possible should bring the child before the elders of the church meeting so that the records of the Church would be complete.
- 203 - if Alma had authority to baptize that is evidence that he had been baptized. Alma baptized himself and Helam.
- 204 - The Book of Mormon, like the Bible, does not furnish many details [but the Mormons blame this aspect of the Bible on corrupt translations and copyists. To them, this does not apply to the Book of Mormon because they believe the missing parts were not translated in the first part. How convenient. They also lay claim to some things mentioned in the lost 116 pages but cannot verify it].

205 - Nephi was baptized again. The church among the Nephites before the coming of Christ was under the law of Moses. The church became a new organization and through [re-] baptism they came into it [from the records, Christ's apostles were not baptized again].

206 - Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were baptized by command of the Angel John the Baptist [in LDS theology, Moroni is also an angel, Adam is the angel Michael, and Noah is the angel Gabriel]. On the day the [LDS] church was organized, all who had been previously baptized were baptized again ... for entrance into the Church.

207 - the reason that the blood of Christ had to be shed is because Adam was without blood before the fall. It is necessary that the blood which came by the fall should be shed in the atonement.

208 - the first judgment came upon man. Man became fallen and were cut off from God's presence (2 Nephi 9:6-7) [the LDS manual Gospel Principles says great blessings resulted through the Fall].

212 - during the millennium, the Savior will spend one thousand years here [on our Planet Earth]. In Doctrine and Covenants 88, it is written that the Savior will do the same thing in other worlds, visiting each in its turn [so it seems like there will be multiple 'Second Comings of Christ'. Assuming you believe this Earth has six thousand years of temporal existence, I wonder if all those other peopled-earths Jesus supposedly created had their own version of Adam and Eve to introduce mortality so all could experience six thousand years of temporal existence or if all those various earths have different durations of their respective temporal periods?]

The End.