

MORMONISM PART 1

Main Idea: A man's morality dictates
his theology

Apologetics 08.14.13

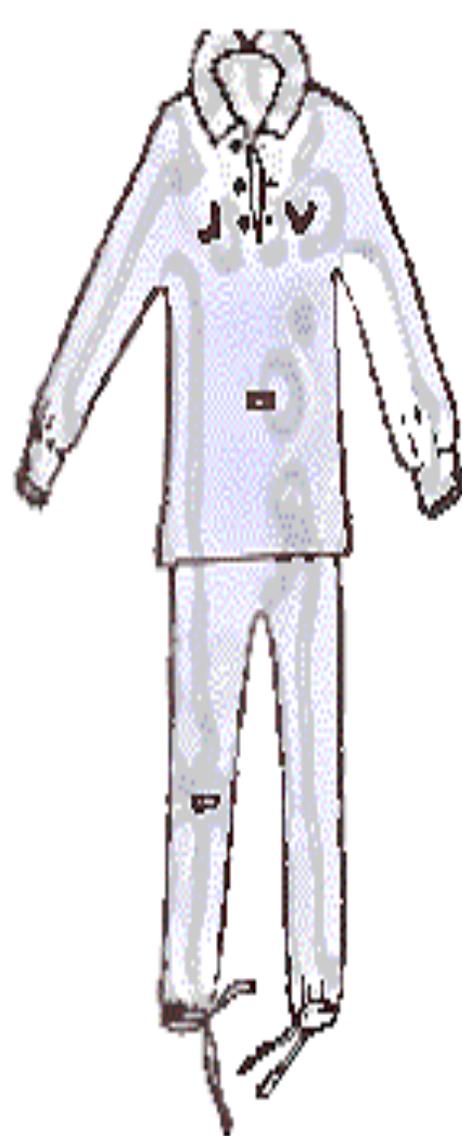
2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15

- ³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough... ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

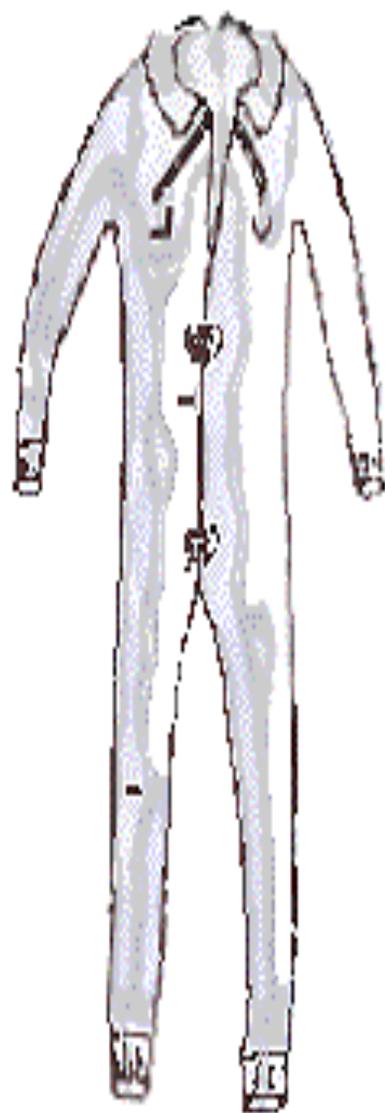
Quick facts

- Joseph Smith, founder & prophet
- Mormonism/Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)
- Claims to be the one, true church
- Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah
- No caffeine (coffee & tea), alcohol, tobacco (*Doctrines and Covenants* 89:1-21)
- All good Mormon men give 2 years of missionary service.

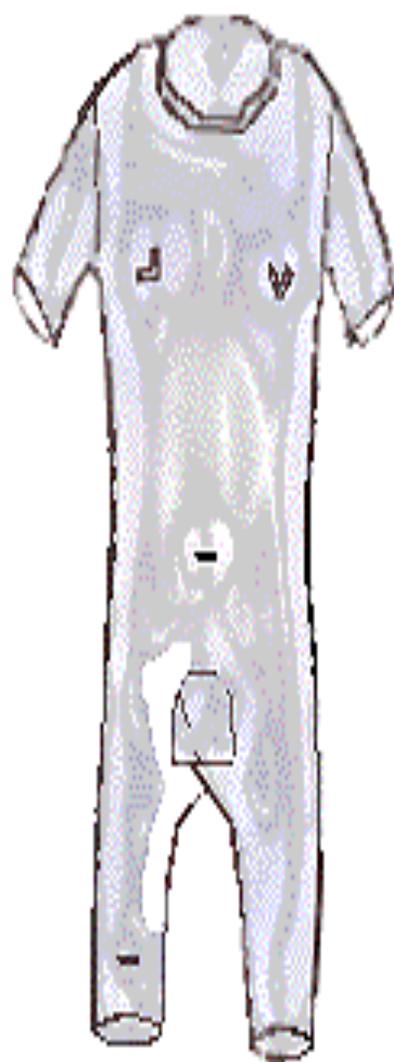
The Evolution of the Temple Garment



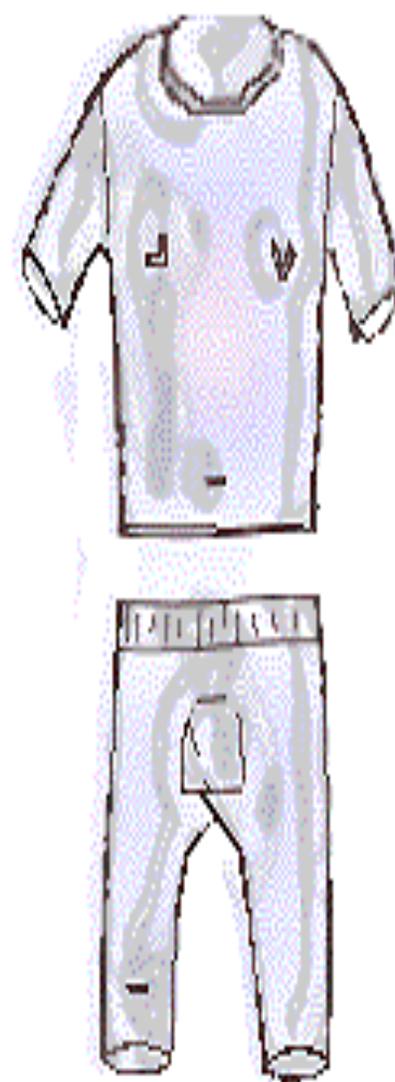
c1842



c1842-1975



1923-present



1979-present





Apostle Orson Pratt

- “The nature of the message of the Book of Mormon is such, that if true, no one possibly can be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it.”

- Orson Pratt's Works, "Divine Authenticity of the *Book of Mormon*" (Liverpool, 1850), p.1-2. In, Ed Decker & Dave Hunt, *The God Makers* (1997), 16-17.

I. How did Mormonism begin?

Joseph Smith

- Born on December 23, 1805 in Vermont
- Father was an active treasure hunter & mother was very superstitious.
- Troubled by the many Christian denominations. Went into the woods when he was 14 years old to pray about it and God appeared & said not to join any of them (1820).
- 3 years later he was visited by the angel Moroni who gave him the book of Mormon.

Joseph Smith

- The Book of Mormon was written on golden plates.
- Contained “lost” history of Jews who came to the Americas in from 600-400 B.C.
- Jaredites - people from the Tower of Babel and settled in South America but were destroyed because of immorality.
- Nephites - scattered Jews
- Lamanites - Native Americans
- Lamanites destroyed the Nephites in an epic battle
- Jesus came and appeared in
- the Americas



Does archaeology support the Book of Mormon?

- No. There has been no evidence to support any of these Mormon claims.

The Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:15-19

- 15 After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction.

- 16 But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me.

- 17 It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other- *This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*

- 18 My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)-and which I should join.

- 19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: -they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”

- *Q: What red flags appear in Joseph Smith's spiritual experience?*



How does one know that Mormonism is true?

- “But behold, I say unto you that you must study it out in your own mind; then you must ask me if it is right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore you shall feel that it is right.”
- *Doctrine and Covenants 9:8*

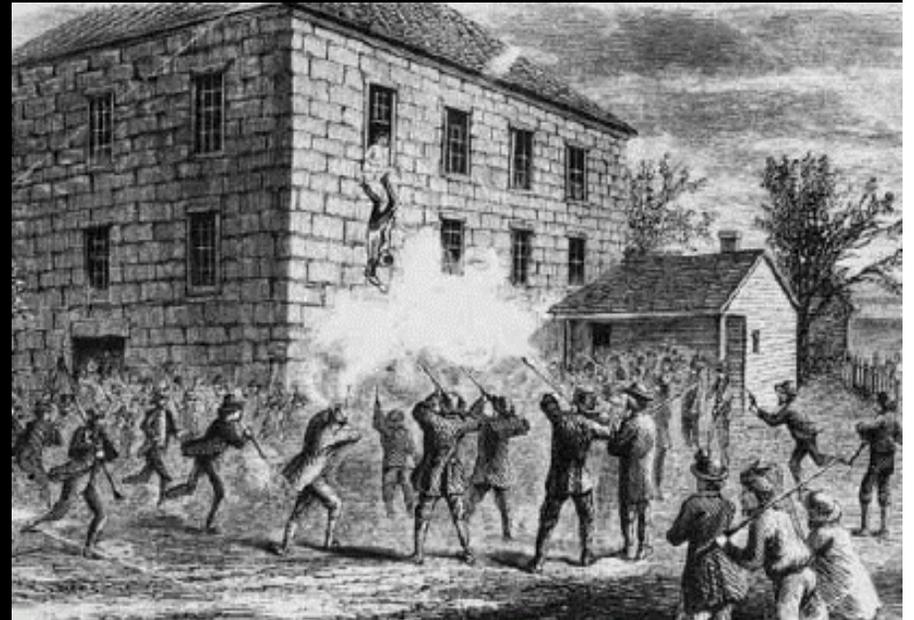
Nauvoo, Illinois

- Mormons moved from NY, OH, MO, & IL because of persecution
- Joseph Smith eventually had 27 wives (over twice as many as Muhammad)
- Destroyed the “Nauvoo Expositor” printing press after the paper exposed his polygamy.
- <http://www.wivesofjosephsmith.org/>

Wife	Date	Age	Husband*
Emma Hale	Jan 1827	22	
Fanny Alger	1833	16	
Lucinda Morgan Harris	1838	37	George W. Harris
Louisa Beaman	Apr 1841	26	
Zina Huntington Jacobs	Oct 1841	20	Henry Jacobs
Presendia Huntington Buell	Dec 1841	31	Norman Buell
Agnes Coolbrith	Jan 1842	33	
Sylvia Sessions Lyon	Feb 1842	23	Windsor Lyon
Mary Rollins Lightner	Feb 1842	23	Adam Lightner
Patty Bartlett Sessions	Mar 1842	47	David Sessions
Marinda Johnson Hyde	Apr 1842	27	Orson Hyde
Elizabeth Davis Durfee	Jun 1842	50	Jabez Durfee
Sarah Kingsley Cleveland	Jun 1842	53	John Cleveland
Delcena Johnson	Jul 1842	37	
Eliza R. Snow	Jun 1842	38	
Sarah Ann Whitney	Jul 1842	17	
Martha McBride	Aug 1842	37	
Ruth Vose Sayers	Feb 1843	33	Edward Sayers
Flora Ann Woodworth	1843	16	
Emily Dow Partridge	Mar 1843	19	
Eliza Maria Partridge	Mar 1843	22	
Almera Johnson	Apr 1843	30	
Lucy Walker	May 1843	17	
Sarah Lawrence	May 1843	17	
Maria Lawrence	May 1843	19	
Helen Mar Kimball	May 1843	14	
Hanna Ells	1843	29	
Elvira Cowles Holmes	Jun 1843	29	Jonathan Holmes
Rhoda Richards	Jun 1843	58	
Desdemona Fullmer	Jul 1843	32	
Olive Frost	1843	27	
Melissa Lott	Sep 1843	19	
Nancy M. Winchester	1843	14	
Fanny Young	Nov 1843	56	

Death of Joseph Smith

- Carthage, Illinois jail
- Stormed by a mob
- Smith kills 2 attackers with smuggled pistols
- Smith & his brother Hiram are killed



Migration to Utah

- After the shooting, the church divided into two groups: One led by his widow which went back to Independence Missouri. They are known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They claim to be the true Church and lay claim to the legal succession of the church presidency which was bestowed upon Joseph's son by Joseph Smith himself. The other group was led by Brigham Young and they went to Utah where, in 1847, they ended up in Salt Lake and founded Salt Lake City. Brigham had 25 wives and accumulated much wealth.

Joseph Smith bigger than Jesus?

- Mormon hymn, *Joseph the Seer*:

He pleads their cause in the courts above...He died, he died for those he loved...He reigns he reigns in the realms above...Unchanged in death with a Saviour's love, he pleads their cause in the courts above...The Saints, the Saints, his only pride, for them he lived, for them he died.”

Joseph Smith

- Very involved in occult practices
- Womanizer
- Never allowed anyone else to see the golden plates of the Book of Mormon
- Took the lives of his attackers vs. Jesus who willingly laid his life down