

Joseph Smith said, “What sort of a being was God in the beginning? ...God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...he was once a man like us” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-346).

4. In the Bible God created everything by Himself and for His own glory, “Thus saith the LORD... I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself (*Isaiah 44:24*).

Joseph Smith claimed to correct Genesis and in the creation account in chapter one he recorded, “And then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth... And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light; and there was light... And the Gods called the light Day, and the darkness they called Night” (*The Book of Abraham 4:1-5, as translated from the papyrus by Joseph Smith*).

TEST #3 – Jesus said, “By their fruits you shall know them” (*Matthew 7:15-20*).

FACTS – Polygamy from a Biblical perspective: In the Old Testament polygamy was practiced – it was never commanded or uniformly condemned.

In the New Testament Jesus and His Apostles initiated safeguards to keep the practice of polygamy out of the Christian church (*see 1 Timothy 3:2 & Titus 1:6*).

FACTS – Polygamy from an LDS perspective:

In the Book of Mormon polygamy is considered an abomination (*see Jacob 2:23-28*).

In 1843 Joseph Smith commanded the practice of polygamy and from 1843 until 1890 polygamy was required in the LDS Church (*D&C section 132*).

Then in 1890 LDS President Wilford Woodruff issued “The Manifesto” which banned polygamy from being practiced in the LDS Church. (*Official Declaration 1 in the Pearl of Great Price*).

To test Joseph Smith’s character as a prophet of God, we will examine the historical facts surrounding Joseph’s choice in wives. [*The following information is documented in the book... IN SACRED LONELINESS, The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith, by Todd Compton, Signature Books, 1997.*]

*Joseph Smith entered into 34 plural marriages.

*Ten of these marriages were to girls in their teen years (*two 14 year old and two 16 year old girls*).

*Eleven of these marriages were to women who had living husbands. All of these married women lived in an ongoing “polyandrous” relationship with both Joseph and their husbands.

*Joseph married several pairs of sisters.

*Joseph married Patty & Sylvia Sessions (a mother and her daughter).

PROBLEMS

1. Joseph Smith had an apparent taste for young flesh. Warren Jeffs, polygamist prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in prison today for the same crime.

2. The law of God forbids marriage to a mother and her daughter and to sisters (*Leviticus 18:17-18, 20:14*).

3. Joseph married MARRIED women. Todd Compton says, “Utah Mormons (including Smith’s wives) affirmed repeatedly that he had physical sexual relations with them... Therefore, there is no good evidence that he did not have sexual relations with any wife, previously single or polyandrous” (*In Sacred Loneliness, pg. 12,21*). According to the Bible this is adultery (*Exodus 20:14,17 & Matt. 5:27-28*).

4. Joseph was disobedient to his own revelation found in D&C 132:61-63 which also says his actions were adultery.

Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits” (*Matthew 7:15-16*).

Why would anyone choose to follow the teachings of Joseph (who is dead) when they could follow the teachings of Jesus Christ who ever lives as our Prophet, High Priest, and King?

Questions? Comments? GospelTruth4U@hotmail.com

THE BIBLICAL TESTS OF A PROPHET

Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits (*Matthew 7:15-16*). “Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many... false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand” (*Matthew 24:11,24-25*).

In 1 John 4:1 the Apostle John says, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

TEST #1 – NO FALSE PROPHECIES

*“The prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ — When a prophet speaks in the name of The LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” (*Deuteronomy 18:21-22*)*

Joseph Smith Prophecy, Doctrine & Covenants 84:1-5 (*1-5, The New Jerusalem and the temple shall be built in Missouri...*)

“A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high. Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church... as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem. Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the

hand of Joseph Smith, Jun. ...Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord.”

The following statements made by LDS prophets following Joseph Smith’s death demonstrate that this prophecy was expected to be interpreted literally.

* **38 years after the prophecy** – LDS Apostle Orson Pratt stated, “God promised in the year 1832 that we should, before the generation then living had passed away, return and build up the City of Zion in Jackson County: that we should return and build up the temple of the Most High where we formerly laid the corner stone. We believe in these promises as much as we believe in any promise ever uttered by the mouth of Jehovah. The Latter-day Saints just as much expect to receive a fulfillment of that promise during the generation that was in existence in 1832 as they expect that the sun will rise and set tomorrow. Why? Because God cannot lie. He will fulfill all His promises. He has spoken. It must come to pass. This is our faith” (*Journal of Discourses, vol. 13, p. 362*).

* **58 years after the prophecy** – The 1890 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, section 84, p. 289, contained a footnote that said, “a generation does not all pass away in one hundred years” (*This footnote was later deleted*).

* **102 years after the prophecy** – President Joseph Fielding Smith said, “I firmly believe that there will be some of that generation who were living when this revelation was given who shall be living when this temple is reared, and I do not believe that the Lord has bound himself to accomplish the matter within one hundred years from 1832... I have full confidence in the word of the Lord and that it shall not fail” (*The Way To Perfection, Salt Lake City, 1935, p. 270*).

* **131 years after the prophecy** – Finally, Joseph Fielding Smith admitted, “It is also reasonable to believe that no soul

living in 1832, is still living in mortality on the earth” (*Answers to Gospel Questions, vol. 4, Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 112*).

Today the temple lot in Independence Missouri sits empty – no temple has ever been built on this spot.

Joseph Smith Prophecy, Doctrine & Covenants 114:1 (Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Far West, Missouri, **April 17, 1838**. HC 3: 23.)

“Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world.”

LDS Apostle David W. Patten was killed in the battle of Crooked River on **Oct. 25, 1838** (History of the [LDS] Church, vol. 3, pp. 170-171, published by the Church). According to the prophecy of D&C 114 He should have started his mission in the **spring of 1839**.

TEST #2 – NO NEW GODS

“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God.”
(Deuteronomy 13:1-5)

1. It should, first of all, be noted that the Bible, is “monotheistic” from cover to cover – [*There is only one God, period*]. In Isaiah chapters 40-45 the LORD God states, “Thus saith the LORD... I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God” (44:6); “Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any” (44:8); “I am the LORD; and there is none else” (45:18).

Joseph Smith was a “polytheist” [*he believed in and taught that many Gods exist*].

On June 16, 1844, in his last Sunday sermon before his death, Joseph Smith declared that he believed in “the plurality of Gods... I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods.” Later in this sermon, Joseph explained that his object was to “preach the scriptures” and “the doctrine they contain, there being a God above, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... thus – If Jesus Christ was the Son of God and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 370-373*).

2. In the Bible there never have been nor ever will be any new Gods created – God said, “Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me” (*Isaiah 43:10*).

Joseph Smith taught, “You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...namely, by going from one small degree to another... from exaltation to exaltation... To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 346-347*).

3. In the Bible - God is an Eternal Being, He always has been God and He always will be God – “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (*Psalms 90:2*).