

Good News for Mormons

The Bible and the Book of Mormon

1. ONLY CHRIST JESUS ALONE CAN SAVE:

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

The *Book of Mormon* says essentially the same. “And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent” (Mosiah 3:17; see also 2 Nephi 31:21). The *Book of Mormon* does not even claim to be divinely inspired. Nephi, not claiming as Peter did, in the Bible, that the prophets were “moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21), wrote what “I think . . . sacred,” admitted, and excused himself for possible error: “And now, if I do err, even they did err of old . . . but because of the weakness which is in me, according to the flesh, I would excuse myself” (1 Nephi 19:6).

The fact that Christ Jesus alone can save means that no other religion, church, ritual, endowment, organization, or individual can save.

2. WORKS CANNOT AND WILL NOT SAVE—ONLY GRACE THROUGH FAITH (IN CHRIST JESUS) CAN SAVE FROM “ENDLESS TORMENT” (see 2 Nephi 9:19):

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

The *Book of Mormon* says essentially the same: “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 do” (2 Nephi 25:23). The *Book of Mormon* does not even claim to be divinely inspired: Moroni, claiming as Peter did in his preaching, about the Bible, that there were “things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21), wrote simply “somewhat as seemeth me good” (Moroni 10:1).

3. THOSE “SAINTS” (WHOSE NAMES ARE “FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE”) WHO ARE SAVED BY GRACE—NOT OF WORKS—THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS WILL ESCAPE “ENDLESS TORMENT”:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15), . . . and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2).

The *Book of Mormon* says essentially the same: “O the greatness of the mercy of our God, the Holy One of Israel! For he delivereth his saints from that awful monster the devil, and death, and hell, and that lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment” (2 Nephi 9:19; and other verses in this chapter list all—“the liar,” “the rich,” “the murderer,” those “who commit whoredoms,” “those who worship idols,” “those who die in their sins,” and others—who “shall be thrust down to hell.”)

4. THE INITIAL STEP TOWARD RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE—BEING SAVED—AND ESCAPING “THAT LAKE OF FIRE” (2 Nephi 9:19) IS TO BELIEVE ON THE SON OF GOD:

“And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).

The *Book of Mormon* requires the same belief: “. . . For the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel” (2 Nephi 30:2b).

5. ANOTHER STEP TOWARD RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE (WHICH ETERNAL LIFE IS THE RESULT OF CLEANSING OF AND PARDON FOR OUR SINS) AND ESCAPING “THAT LAKE OF FIRE” (“WHICH IS ENDLESS TORMENT” [2 Nephi 9:19]) IS TO CONFESS ONE’S SINS:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

The Book of Mormon, which does not even claim to be divinely inspired (see Jacob 1:2a), calls for the same confession of sins: “And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye forgive, and I will forgive him also” (Mosiah 26:29b).

6. THE NEXT STEP TOWARD RECEIVING EVERLASTING LIFE AND ESCAPING “THAT LAKE OF FIRE” (“...WHICH IS ENDLESS TORMENT” [2 Nephi 9:19]) IS TO REPENT OF—TURN FROM—ONE’S SINS:

“I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall be likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

The *Book of Mormon*, which does not even claim to be divinely inspired (Jacob 7:26a), offers the same forgiveness for repentance: “Yea, and as often as my people repent will I forgive them their trespasses against me” (Mosiah 26:30).

7. THEN, ONE MUST CONFESS CHRIST—NOT SOME CHURCH, RITUAL, HERITAGE, PROGRAM, TEMPLE, OR ORGANIZATION—TO THE LOST SOULS IN THIS WORLD AS A RESULT OF SALVATION (WHICH IS RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE AND ESCAPING “THAT LAKE OF FIRE” [2 Nephi 9:19]):

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

And the *Book of Mormon* states that only with Godly love—“charity”—and through the power of the Holy Ghost (John 3:5; Acts 1:8)—which only a Christ-believing, sin-confessing, penitent, born-again (see Mosiah 27:24-28; Alma 5:14, 26; and these verses mention nothing about water baptism), Spirit-filled follower of Christ possess—can one thus confess the Lord Jesus Christ: “And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; whereof he must needs have charity” (Moroni 7:44b; and the *Book of Mormon* does not even claim to be divinely inspired: Mormon, not claiming as Paul did, in the Bible that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” [2 Timothy 3:16a], admitted to imperfections because he wrote in Egyptian instead of Hebrew: “And now, behold, we have written this record according to our knowledge, in...reformed Egyptian...and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record” [Mormon 9:32a, 33b]).

8. BOTH THE DIVINELY INSPIRED BIBLE AND THE *BOOK OF MORMON*, WHICH CLAIMS NO DIVINE INSPIRATION, TEACH:

(a) That God is a Spirit and not a flesh-and-bone man (John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Hosea 11:9; Numbers 23:19; Romans 1:22, 23; Alma 18:24-28; and 22:9-11);

(b) That God is eternal, omniscient, unchanging and, therefore, not progressing daily (James 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:17; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Mormon 9:9, 10, 19; Moroni 7:22; and 8:18); and

(c) That there is only one God (1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 5:7; Ephesians 4:6; Alma 11:22, 28, 29; Mormon 7:7).

9. THE *BOOK OF MORMON*, WHICH IS CALLED THE “FULNESS OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL” IN *DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS* 20:9 AND 27:5 AND IN *THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE*:

Joseph Smith 2:34, should, therefore, contain the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, however, the *Book of Mormon*, which, it is claimed, “contains...the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also,” does not teach:

That there are many gods. The prophet Joseph Smith, contradicting the *Book of Mormon* (Alma 11:22, 28, 29 and Mormon 7:7), taught: “In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people in it” (*Journal of Discourses*, VI, 5).