

**The Mormon church started at Creation**  
**Start there when you talk to Mormons**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly known as the Mormon church) first met in 1830, claiming to be a restoration of an ancient Christian church led by prophets from Adam to Christ. Mormons claim that members of their church today also are Christians, follow the one true living prophet (currently Thomas S. Monson), and comprise — not the only Christian church — but the only *true* Christian church; not the only church with truths, but the only church with *all* truths of Christian faith.

*“There was not so much as the twinkling of an eye during the whole so-called pre-Christian Era when the Church of Jesus Christ was not upon the earth, organized basically in the same way it [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints] now is.” \**

**According to the Book of Mormon**

Members of the true church in ancient days were called Christians, but not Mormons or Latter-day Saints as they are today. Even hundreds of years B.C. they knew Jesus Christ by name and as the Lamb of God and the Son of God.

Shortly after the resurrection, Christ visited the Americas, appointed twelve ancient Americans as apostles, and taught His “other sheep” things He had taught earlier in Palestine.

*“The [Mormon] Church is thus the one true Church because it was set up by a prophet [Joseph Smith] acting under command of God.” \**

*“The church of the devil...is every church except the true church, whether parading under a Christian or a pagan banner.” \**

Six centuries before Christ the ancient church knew that an apostle named John—writer of the Book of Revelation—would describe a final conflict between the one true “church of the Lamb of God” and the “church of the devil.” They knew that new scripture would restore lost truths. [Other authoritative Mormon writings teach that the “church of the devil” includes all non-Mormon churches; and that the Book of Mormon and other works now in the Mormon scripture canon restore ancient truths.] \*\*

*\*Book of Mormon Student Manual Teacher Resource CD (2005 edition), prepared by the Church Educational System and published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. \*\*One can read and search the Book of Mormon at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) .*

BACKGROUND

**You might ask**

Q: Why do you say the Mormon church started at Creation, when it was actually organized in 1830?

A: *The church claims to be the final appearance (under a new name) of the true church, which has existed on earth sporadically since the days of Adam, now with essentially the same doctrines, organization, and authority as in ancient days.*

Q: Do Mormons really believe Jesus visited the Americas 2000 years ago? That all other churches today belong to the church of the devil? That Adam and others knew Christ by name?

A: *Maybe yes; maybe no. No one can predict what an individual Mormon might believe. Some don't know what their church teaches, but might believe—or not—if they knew. Many are culturally or socially Mormon and believe little of the Mormon story. Some believe selectively, based on private revelation of truth to each faithful member, a doctrine endorsed by the church itself.*

Q: How do you know the Mormon church teaches the things you have mentioned? My neighbor says you're wrong.

A: *We cite what Mormons say are their final authorities: their prophets and four volumes of latter-day scripture. We also cite their church's official manuals and monthly Ensign magazine.*

Q: Why do you think Christians need to know things like this about Mormons? Frankly, I find their beliefs irritating and patently unchristian, despite their pretentious claims.

A: *For centuries Christians have learned the language and culture of those they wanted to reach. Mormons have a unique language and culture. Is it essential to know them? No. But it can help.*

**You can begin at the beginning**

“The Gods” abound in Mormon religion, beginning to end. Christians must insist on truth and hold Mormons accountable.

Mormon beginnings: •“...the principles that we believe in...originated with the Gods in the eternal worlds....” •“So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image, in the image of the Gods to form they him, male and female to form they them.” •“The heads of the Gods appointed one God for us....” —*Old Test. Student Manual (Religion 301)*, Resource CD, 2005; Abraham 4:27

“God revealed the gospel of Jesus Christ to Adam....” That first dispensation was truncated by general apostasy. Restorations and apostasies followed, until this Mormon restoration in 1830. —*Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*, LDS church, 2004.

A Mormon's Gods: “...these three [Father, Son, and Holy Ghost] constitute...three Gods.” —March 2008 *Ensign*, an official church magazine

STARTING POINT