



SIN: THE MORMON STORY OF THE FALL

The bottom line: The Fall is a blessing. Adam is a hero.

A Mormon prophet told Mormons, “Brethren and sisters, let’s thank the Lord, when we pray, for Adam.”¹

Why would Mormons do that? The prophet explained, “Adam did only what he had to do. He partook of that fruit for one good reason, and that was to open the door to bring you and me and everyone else into this world, for Adam and Eve could have remained in the Garden of Eden; they could have been there to this day, if Eve hadn’t done something. ...If it hadn’t been for Adam, I wouldn’t be here; you wouldn’t be here; we would be waiting in the heavens as spirits pleading for somebody [to do for us what Adam did].” The Fall, he said, “wasn’t a shameful fall at all.” Gaining a body through this process was a necessary event for God’s offspring “to become gods.”

Knowing it would bless all mankind, Adam chose to sin.²

Adam and Eve rejoiced after they had successfully fallen.³

THE MORMON LOGIC: Everyone lived in heaven but could not progress without a testing in mortality. Only by sinning did Adam and Eve become mortal and able to reproduce, making mortality possible for their billions of brothers and sisters “waiting in the heavens.” Through ongoing human reproduction over thousands of years each spirit is placed into a mortal body with its opportunities to experience sin and other trials; and to overcome, return to the heavens, and advance ever closer to godhood.

See “A Mormon’s Adam...” and “You know...,” page 2.

SALVATION: A Mormon perspective. (You don’t have to call it “the great plan of happiness,” as Mormons do,⁴ but you can tell them about the plan of salvation.) But first, some suggestions:

- If it’s wrong, it’s wrong.** Mormonism cannot be redeemed or lead to salvation through its inventive mix of truth and error. Don’t fight tooth and nail over every detail of Mormon history and doctrine.
- Mormons and their religion can be attractive.** Don’t tackle Mormonism alone or conceal an attraction. Get Christian support.
- Always use the Bible** to evaluate what Mormons say. Then the Mormon message is clearly a false gospel. Nice, maybe, but false.
- Don’t debate salvation with Mormons.** (Would you want them to think they “won”?) Testify. Teach. Don’t argue.
- Mormon missionaries are not Mormon authorities.** Mormon doctrine is ill-defined, flexible, and not readily available, if at all.
- Mormons don’t mean what you do** when using the same words. Similarities are superficial; differences, profound.

The Great Plan of Happiness

—continued: SALVATION/The Great Plan of Happiness, a Mormon perspective

The Mormon plan in plain English: It was developed in heaven by the Gods before Creation. God’s spirit children would be “saved” by electing to become mortals and striving eventually “to return” to heaven. There are several heavens. All sinners are assured of an entry level heaven called “telestial kingdom of glory,” but can earn a better heaven by doing good things and becoming Mormons. Even after mortal death they can increase their chances for a better heaven.

Living Mormons acting as proxies may help the dead by performing Mormon rituals, including baptism and marriage, two of the many requirements for the highest heaven, called exaltation or eternal life. There the best will become eternal creators and gods.

A Mormon’s Adam (aka archangel Michael; Ancient of Days)

Adam helped Christ form the earth. He is now a “prince over [a multitude of nations] forever.”⁵ Shortly before the Second Coming of Christ Adam will return to earth “in power and glory,” a future event imagined and celebrated in a Mormon hymn.⁶

You know what Mormons believe

You know enough about false Mormon teachings. (Yes you do!) Your effective witness does not require a detailed, personal study of Mormon and anti-Mormon tracts, books, and web sites.

Many Mormons know less than you. You can refer them to their own church materials, many of which we cite in MOQ and can be read at www.lds.org, the church’s web site.

You know good Mormons are moral, educated, hard-working, patriotic, family-oriented. They talk about Christ, pray, read scripture. They are not polygamists. Their religion may be nice, but it’s not the only true, nor even an authentic, expression of Christian faith, as the Mormon church claims.

You know also “...the gospel of Christ: ...the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:16). It’s not the Mormon “plan of happiness.” You know enough about the Mormon church when you know that it teaches that Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are “three Gods,” and that “the Gods” created Adam and Eve “in their own image.”⁷ You know: Wrong Gods. Wrong gospel. Powerless “plan of salvation.”

Notes: [Mormon church references]

1. *Ensign*, Jan. ’06, pp. 52-53.

2. Bible Dictionary, “Fall of Adam.”

3. Scripture, Moses 5:10-12.

4. A scripture expression; Alma 42:8.

Eternal Marriage Student Manual, pp.

140, 141: The Fall enabled procreation, which remains today “the very key” to

the plan of happiness or salvation, making pursuit of godhood possible for all.

5. Scripture, D&C 27:11 and 107:55.

Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual, p.16. *Gospel Principles*, p. 31.

6. *Hymns*, #51.

7. *Ensign*, Mar. ’08, p. 68. Scripture, Abraham 4:27.

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