



THE BIBLE vs. JOSEPH SMITH - DVD

BY ANDY POLAND,
GENERAL MANAGER

Joel Kramer and SourceFlix have produced one of the best videos for presenting the case for Jesus and the Bible I have ever seen. I am impressed that Joel has taken the time to understand the claims of Mormonism in order to teach the good news of Jesus in a compelling dialogue between himself and a believing Mormon.

The video presents a simple test from the Bible that can help anyone understand when God is speaking or when the one speaking is just a man. The test is foolproof because God always knows the future and men do not know what is going to happen. If God is speaking to a man then his prophecy will come to pass, if the prophecy fails, God commands his people not to follow or be afraid of that man (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Joel's video clarifies the test of a prophet and begins to scrutinize the claims of the Book of Mormon for validity.

One of the earliest things I was taught in my Mormon childhood was the unreliability of the Bible compared to Mormon scripture. My belief in Mormonism rested on the idea that the Bible had been corrupted by evil men. I remember reading how the Book of Mormon prophet Nephi received a revelation saying that the Bible would be corrupted by the great and abominable church after the death of the apostles of Jesus (See 1 Nephi 13:28-29, 32, 34). The Bible vs. Joseph Smith DVD investigates the reliability of Nephi's prophecy by comparing the evidence of Bible manuscripts to the current Bible translations.

I was thrilled to see the factual evidence provided by the DVD. Perhaps the most compelling argument used by Joel was the exploration of the archeological

discovery found in the Qumran caves. One of the caves contained a full Isaiah scroll that dated to one hundred years before Christ. The fascinating fact is that God has provided us with the ability to test the prophecy of Nephi by comparing the ancient Isaiah scroll with the Isaiah contained within the Bible. In addition, we can also test Joseph Smith and his revelations because Joseph made considerable alterations to Isaiah within the Joseph Smith translation of the Bible. The remarkable fact is that the Isaiah scroll proved the accuracy of the Bible and challenges the claims of Joseph Smith to the very heart of Mormonism. Without the corruption of the Bible there would be no need for a restoration or for Joseph Smith.

The next part of the video explains why biblical prophets have proved their connection to God through the fulfilled prophecies about Jesus. Isaiah prophesied that the messiah would be the son of Jesse (See Isaiah 11:1, 10) and that he would make intercession for our sins through his death (See Isaiah 53:8-9). Micah prophesied that the messiah would be born in Bethlehem (See Micah 5:2). David prophesied that the messiah would have his hands and feet pierced (See Psalm 22:16). Daniel prophesied that the messiah would be killed and afterwards Jerusalem would be destroyed along with the temple (See Daniel 9:26). These prophecies and many other Old Testament prophecies about the messiah were fulfilled in Jesus. I believe one of the best reasons to share this video is the evidence that shows that Jesus was the messiah and that God really was speaking to the prophets of old.

The weight of evidence provided in this video will challenge every Mormon to

consider Christianity as a viable alternative to Mormonism. I love building bridges of belief to those lost within Mormonism, and I think that this video has built an eight lane superhighway bridge of faith leading to Jesus. For this reason I would like to get the word out about this video. Ask your pastors if they would be willing to view the video and show it to their congregations. Invite your Mormon friends to see the video; ask them for their opinion about the manuscript evidence for the Bible. Ask them if they were amazed at the fulfilled prophecies about Jesus. Challenge them to seek the truth, no matter where it leads them.

Concerned Christians is starting a fund raising campaign to buy as many of these DVD's as we can, so that we can distribute them in the area around the new Gilbert temple. We would like to send a copy of the video to everyone in the three zip codes around the temple. There are thirty thousand people who live in that area so we have a lot of work to do. Each DVD will cost about one dollar for production and postage in that area. Just mention that you would like to have your donations support the "Gilbert DVD distribution."

I cannot recall another time when I was so excited to share the good news of Jesus. The hope I have gained in Jesus is magnified by sharing this hope with others. This video provides an opportunity to share the truth of God's word by providing easy ways to understand the simple evidence for the word of God. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of God's deliverance to the Latter-day Saints. ✚

Don't forget to check our web site for a complete listing of resources for witnessing to Mormons.

www.concernedchristians.com



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AMAZING QUOTES
From LDS Church Leaders:



“Faith grows by keeping the commandments. We must work at keeping the commandments. From the [LDS] Bible Dictionary we read that ‘miracles do not produce faith but strong faith is developed by obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ; in other words, faith comes by righteousness.”

From a talk entitled, “The Rock of Our Redeemer” given by Wilford W. Anderson (of the LDS Seventy) General Conference, April, 2010 [emphasis added].

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

“However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness” (The Apostle Paul; Romans 4:5).

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (The Apostle Paul; Romans 10:17).

BIBLE STUDY AT CONCERNED CHRISTIANS

TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:00 PM— LED BY STEVE WEBB

Learn how to help Mormons understand God’s word. If you are a Mormon and want to learn what Christians believe about the Bible, this class is for you also. We hope to see you on Tuesday!

**Concerned Christians Radio Program
on KXXT 1010 - Mondays at 4 pm**

Our radio broadcast is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. If you are outside the Phoenix area, you can listen to prerecorded broadcasts online anytime via streaming audio.

Go to www.familyvaluesradio.net and click the flashing, red “ON AIR” (upper left-hand corner). Listen anytime to our podcasts: www.outofmormonism.com; or just go to our website for details: www.concernedchristians.com



“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

(Matthew 16:18)



UNDERSTANDING YOUR FAITH COMES FROM SHARING IT

By Andy Poland

After mission trips to Utah, I never fail to come back without a deeper understanding and appreciation for my relationship with Jesus. I am surprised by those who say that mission trips are a waste of time and money. Every mission trip does more for me than for those I talk with, although the goal is to reach the lost.

Mission trips encourage biblical conversations. Our latest trip to Utah provided our group with the opportunity to explore the reasons why biblical Christianity was different from Mormonism. Our discussions centered on how to present Jesus to those lost in Mormonism. These defining discussions help everyone on the trip to know what they believe. Mission trips force every person to answer the questions: Do you know what you believe? Can you explain why you believe in Jesus? Is my relationship with Jesus something worth sharing with others? Discussions like these bring new life and meaning to my personal relationship with Jesus when I present what I believe to non-believers.

The hardest part of any mission trip is realizing that there are others that do not know the love of God. Every person in our group commented on the overwhelming sense of fear we felt for Latter-day Saints, knowing that hell awaited them without Jesus. My heart broke as I thought about my family members and total strangers convinced that their righteous acts will pay for their ticket into heaven. I reflected on the completed work of Jesus and praised God that he has freed me from the worry of whether I would be good enough to enter heaven.

Coming back from a mission trip changes how you want to interact with those around you. Something about being in another culture and belief system helps sharpen your awareness that Jesus is still needed by thousands right here in our community. In the end, who was changed most by my trip to Utah? I have to say, I was changed the most. Teachers always learn more than the students they teach. For those who understand this concept, mission trips are invaluable. Why? Looking at our mission team the answer is obvious – everyone on the team returned with a new increased motivation to share Jesus with every person.

If you would like to be excited about your relationship with Jesus, take time to share your beliefs with others. Mission trips to Utah are hosted every year by Utah Partnerships for Christ. If you would like to spread the good news of Jesus to Utah, Concerned Christians provides excellent training for any youth or adult mission team. The cost is very reasonable and the value of the experience is without equal. If you would like to arrange a mission trip to Utah, please contact Andy for details.



In the Mesa, Arizona area? Stop by our office and browse through our display racks full of materials for witnessing to Mormons (M-F Office hours: 9:00-5:30).

The CROSS

From the Mailbag



Hi there,

I just wanted to say I am enjoying Judy's book, *Out of Mormonism*. So happy they found the Lord Jesus and were saved from this false religion. I have never been involved with Mormonism. It makes me sad to see so many young people striving to do "better" door to door...scary! I just wanted you to know there are Christians here in Nova Scotia praying for your continued strength and courage to speak out against such a cult. ~ Nova Scotia, Canada

Concerned Christians,

Keep up your good work! Good to see in your newsletter about the various outreaches and thrilled to hear that the radio station in Utah is there beaming out the truth. Hopefully my many relatives there are tuning in. ~ Phoenix, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

My wife and I are happy to receive your newsletter. My brothers and sisters are still in the Mormon Church. I've sent them Christian tracts but they aren't interested. We pray for them daily. We pray for your ministry - thank you. ~ SD, CA

To: Concerned Christians,

Please stop sending this garbage to my home. ~ Newberg, OR

To Concerned Christians,

I appreciate very much the work you are doing and read every newsletter with interest. I cannot contribute financially, but I pray for you regularly. I do want to send this \$10 to partially cover the expense of producing and mailing your newsletter. ~Escondido, CA

Concerned Christians,

Thank you for the newsletter you send out. It is great to hear what you all are doing for the people who need to break away from Mormonism. There are so many who need to hear your good news about Jesus Christ, our Savior who died for us all. Keep up the good work, which is just very important to our world. Many thanks, and God bless you all who are doing this great work. ~ Longmont, CO

Dear Jim, Judy & Staff,

I sure appreciate your newsletter and am very happy you haven't taken me off your mailing list. I need to share this with you: In October, two LDS missionary boys came by and said they'd like to share the *Book of Mormon* with me. I told them, "I know all about the *Book of Mormon* and the Church." They said, "You do?" I told them that for 59 years I was a Mormon and I left. One of them said, "Do you mind if I ask why?" I told him, "While in the Mormon Church not once did I ever hear that Jesus Christ died on that cross for me, for you, or Joseph Smith or Brigham Young. And the Bible tells us the priesthood

(Continued on back cover)



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isn't passed from one to another and the Mormons teach that when the boys are 12 they receive the Aaronic priesthood, and at age 17, the Melchizedek priesthood." They didn't know what to say to that. Then one of them said, "Can we come back to talk to you again?" I said, "Sure." So again, I thank you and Judy for your time and patience in that month of November, 1996, and on December 4th when Jim baptized me before I went back to South Dakota. So many times over have I thanked God for that special time. I'm still very much into God and want more of Him. Enclosed is a gift for the book, *Journey from Mormonism*. God bless you All. ~ Sturgis, SD

Dear Andy,

I give praise to the Lord for you and the ministry of Concerned Christians. I look forward to reading your newsletter and am so blessed to read of those who have found the truth, received Christ as Lord and Savior and were able to leave the LDS church. My heart is so burdened for those I work with who are Mormons. They are precious people who I know the Lord wants to free. I want to commit to a life of prayer for God's deliverance of His people. ~ City/State not available

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for all you do. Our hope is in Christ and it's nice to know He has helpers like you. May God continue to bless your work and your efforts to spread the truth. With sincere

appreciation, ~ Pinedale, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

The check in this envelope is for 3 months. I never sent in my support for the previous two months, so it's included herewith. It's not much, but I hope it helps. I love your newsletters and hope it is touching many peoples' hearts – drawing them away from falseness and into the light of Truth. Praise the Lord! ~ A. T. City/State not available

Concerned Christians,

I have no Mormon friends, but thank you for the DVD and the work you do among Mormons. ~ Wenden, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

I meant to send money in March when I received your letter regarding your financial needs, stuck the letter in a desk drawer, and forgot until I received the most recent newsletter. I am unable to pledge a specific monthly amount, but as I can, I will try to send something. This contribution comes from myself and my younger sister, who has recently begun earning money at her new job. Thank you very much for your ministry. I have learned much about witnessing to Mormons through your newsletter, website, and other resources. Lord's blessings, ~ A.P., City/State not available

