



## “UNIVERSAL APOSTASY”... FACT OR FICTION?

BY BOB BETTS

The LDS scriptures contradict the LDS doctrine of a “universal apostasy” as demonstrated below. As you read this article, please note in particular the underscored lines, which have been added in places throughout the article for the purpose of emphasis.

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In the most recent missionary training manual entitled *Preach My Gospel* (2004), which is used for training all LDS missionaries, the following statement is on page 34:

“The Great Apostasy

After the death of Jesus Christ, wicked people persecuted the Apostles and Church members and killed many of them. With the death of the Apostles, priesthood keys and presiding priesthood authority were taken from the earth.”

The next quote is taken from the former missionary’s discussion booklet (1986), *The Restoration, Discussion 3, Principle 2, Apostasy* p. 3-6, but is not so stated in *Preach My Gospel*, which replaced the booklet: “The Lord took the priesthood authority and his Church from the earth.”

LDS missionaries are instructed:

“Investigators must understand that a universal apostasy occurred following the death of Jesus Christ and His Apostles. If there had been no apostasy, there would have been no need of a Restoration” *Preach My Gospel*, p. 35.

While the Mormon Church teaches that Joseph Smith was God’s prophet for that “restoration,” LDS scriptures actually refute the “universal apostasy” doctrine, as the following LDS references demonstrate.

*Doctrine and Covenants*, Section 7:2-3 & 7 states: “And I [John, the beloved] said unto him: Lord, give unto me power over death, that I may live and bring souls unto thee. And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desirest this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory and shalt prophesy before nations, kindreds, tongues and people. Verse 7: And I will make thee to minister for him and for thy brother James; and unto you three I will give this power and the keys of this ministry until I come.”

So John, the beloved, allegedly lives today and holds the priesthood keys and presiding priesthood authority, which *Preach My Gospel* claims were taken from the earth, initiating the “universal apostasy.” Either *Preach My Gospel* is in error, or the LDS scriptures regarding John are in error. They cannot both be true. But, there’s more... (Continued on page 3)

## SUBMITTING TO OUR LEADERS

BY ANDY POLAND

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge;...” Hosea 4:6a. By now we know who the President will be for the United States. Many Christians have been asking themselves, “I could not support either candidate, so how should I live under the current leadership?” Paul actually answered that question:

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience” Romans 13:1-5.

I believe the point that is being made here is that no one is placed in authority unless God allows it to be so. God can even use the leaders that fight against Him. Pharaoh in Egypt was such a leader. He was oppressing God’s people. He was a tyrant and did not believe in God, but God raised up Pharaoh for a purpose. God used Pharaoh to display his power before all of the nations of the world. In fact, if there were no Egypt or Pharaoh there would have been no Moses or the Law. Actually it is impossible to believe in Jesus today without first believing in Moses. Jesus taught, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” John 5:46-47.

That is amazing for me to consider. That God used such evil from Pharaoh to bring about so much good for the whole world. (Continued on page 2)

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# “AMAZING QUOTES” FROM LDS CHURCH LEADERS

*“How grateful we should be that a wise Creator fashioned an earth and placed us here, with a veil of forgetfulness of our previous existence so that we might experience a time of testing, an opportunity to prove ourselves in order to qualify for all that God has prepared for us to receive.”*

Thomas S. Monson, *The Race of Life*, May, 2012 – *Ensign* pg. 91

## Biblical Response:

Mormons continue to view the unbiblical idea of a previous existence, as being a time we were raised by God as his literal spirit children in heaven. According to Mormonism we would have had a close personal relationship with God when we lived with him. However, John taught that no one has seen the Father... “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

Jesus agreed with John when he taught that men were not from heaven but rather from earth: “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world” (John 8:23).



## Submitting to Our Leaders / continued from page one

Today’s problem with the current leadership can seem daunting. Our leaders seem to ignore the issues of right and wrong in order to gain supporters of their work. Our country seems to embrace unrighteousness as if it were life giving manna. I don’t know exactly how God is going to turn this current condition of our country for His purposes, but I am certain that God’s power will be displayed. Remember that God excels in the impossible and loves to confront the plans of man with laughter. “The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming” Psalms 37:12-13.

Until that day, we should take up the admonition of Jesus to do good to those who hate us. We should feed the poor and give to the needy, so that those who accuse us will be ashamed of their behavior. “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander” 1 Peter 3:15-16.



## Letters— From the Mailbag



**FROM CATLETTSBURG, KY:** Thank you for this website and your ministry. I too am an ex-Mormon from Kentucky who has struggled in seeing the true God and the true reflection of Christ for many years. But the Lord sought me and I was baptized for the 13<sup>th</sup> time (1 baptism into the church at age 8; and eleven by proxies at the DC Temple) as a true Christian. When I found your website, I started to sob – this is the same call God has laid upon my heart. I believe my past in Mormonism allows me to minister to those caught up in its snares and at times I get very frustrated with the church and its leaders. It’s hard to explain at times the turmoil of going against Mormonism at every family function (my family remains in the church). I was wondering if you offer a curriculum that is available to purchase for small groups for our area. I have been requested to start groups for ex-Mormons (I facilitate our churches recovery program for strongholds) and have found very little literature for use in small groups. Any suggestions would be appreciated greatly. I’ll be praying for your ministry and ask for your prayers with ours as well. Thanks and God bless!

**FROM KINGMAN, AZ:** Thank you for your good work! I recently read “Out of Mormonism by Judy Robertson” and I thought the book was excellent and does a great job of bringing the truth to Mormons and exposing the lie that it is. I am not Mormon but I have friends that are. I have ministered to Mormons and the most recent opportunity I had was eye-opening. The person had absolutely no idea the Mormon Jesus was not the same as the Christian Jesus. They were genuinely shocked. They did not get married in the Temple – second marriages for both of them. They attended the church initially because it was so “family” oriented. So sad. These poor folks are just caught in Satan’s web. Thank you for the book “Out of Mormonism” and for your great work for the kingdom of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Three *Book of Mormon* apostles live today, as well...

In the *Book of Mormon*, 3 Nephi 28: 4-7 states: “And when [Jesus] had spoken unto [the disciples in the Americas] he turned himself unto the three (Nephites), and said unto them: ‘What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father?’ And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. And [Jesus] said unto them: ‘Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me. Therefore, more blessed are ye, for ye shall never taste of death; but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory with the powers of heaven.’”

Thus, “three Nephites” were granted the same privileges as was John in *Doctrine and Covenants*, Sec. 7. And, now there are allegedly four apostles on the earth since about the middle of the first century, who were promised Christ’s keys and authority, and that they would bring souls to Christ while the earth shall stand. The *Preach My Gospel* is further contradicted by the promises made to the three Nephites.

More promises to the three Nephites...

They shall dwell in the flesh while the earth shall stand. In 3 Nephi 9 “And again, ye shall not have pain while ye shall dwell in the flesh, neither sorrow save it be for the sins of the world; and all this will I do because of the thing which ye have desired of me, for ye have desired that ye might bring the souls of men unto me, while the world shall stand.” After a “transfiguration,” according to verses 13-15, they were to continue in ministry throughout the world. Verse 16: “But it came to pass that they did again minister upon the face of the earth; nevertheless they did not minister of the things which they had heard and seen, because of the commandment which was given them in heaven.” Verse 18: But this much I know, according to the record which hath been given—they did go forth upon the face of the land, and did minister unto all the people, uniting as many to the church as would believe in their preaching; baptizing them, and as many as were baptized did receive the Holy Ghost.” Verse 23: “And it came to pass that thus they did go forth among all the people of Nephi, and did preach the gospel of Christ unto all people upon the face of the land; and they were converted unto the Lord, and were united unto the church of Christ, and thus the people of that generation were blessed, according to the word of Jesus.” Verses 27—29: “And behold they will be among the Gentiles, and the Gentiles shall know them not. They will also be among the Jews, and the Jews shall know them not. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom that they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them.”

## A Mormon Response

The three Nephites were taken from the land because of the sins of the people... Mormon, chapter 1:13 states, “But wickedness did prevail upon the face of the whole land, insomuch that the Lord did take away his beloved disciples, and the work of miracles and of healing did cease because of the iniquity of the people.”

Clearly it states that “upon the face of the whole land...the work of miracles and of healing did cease because of the iniquity of the people.” So, it can be argued that the work did cease for THOSE wicked people. Yet, they were still on the earth, in possession of the keys. And, we remember that in 3 Nephi 28:29, “they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them.” Thus, “the face of the whole land” in Mormon 1:13 is represented in Mormon 1:6-7 & 10 as a relatively small Zarahemla region within the scope of “all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people.” Verses 6-7: “And it came to pass that I [Mormon], being eleven years old, was carried by my father into the land southward, even to the land of Zarahemla. The whole face of the land had become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost as it were the sand of the sea.” Verse 10: “And it came to pass that war began to be among them in the borders of Zarahemla, by the waters of Sidon.”

Two last points...

- 1) If a universal apostasy occurred, then Mormon and Moroni, the two prophets found at the end of the *Book of Mormon*, could not have possessed the keys and authority to preach, to baptize, to lay hands on others to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, or to even write their respective books. Those two would not have had the required priesthood keys and authority to do so.
- 2) And, without those keys and authority, neither could Moroni have abridged the plates into the *Book of Mormon* canon. Therefore, the entire *Book of Mormon* cannot be Holy Scriptures, according to LDS dependency on priesthood keys and authority for godly inspiration.

(Continued on page 4)



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### Summary:

While the Bible speaks of apostasy, it never speaks of universal apostasy, as the Mormon church claims. Indeed, some amount of apostasy is inevitable, and has always been, even in Jesus’ own time on earth (John 6:64-66). But, the LDS claim that the Lord took His Church from the earth, violates Jesus’ promise, “...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Surely a complete removal of His Church from the earth would be the single most universal victory for the gates of hell, and the Devil could declare himself the winner. But, THAT is never to be.



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