

•In our last paper (p.s. #4, which you can read at <http://www.immanuelbible.net/images/stories/or-ps004.pdf>), we looked briefly at the nine priesthood offices held by Mormon boys and men—hundreds of thousands of them teaching and testifying that Mormon religion is Christianity in its truest form.

•In this paper we look at one current Mormon church teaching—not simply a harmless oddity, as it may seem to some, but for Christians a clue to fatal flaws in the church's "restored gospel" message.

BUT FIRST, WORDS OF CAUTION

And this is the primary purpose of this paper!

1. "I've yet to see a presentation of LDS doctrine by a non-LDS writer that comes anywhere close to getting it right." [p.s. and MOQ writers are non-LDS.]

—Dr. David Paulsen, Mormon Professor of Philosophy
Brigham Young University

Answering questions for *Modern Reformation* magazine, Nov/Dec 2003, Paulsen said: "...it is important for readers of *Modern Reformation* to understand that Latter-day Saints have **no official theology** as such." He added, "Our doctrines are based...on what we believe to be **divine self-disclosures [to Mormon prophets].**"*

His comments reflect a common Mormon presumption: You don't understand. You're wrong.

2. "And, to be perfectly frank, there have been times when **members or leaders in the Church have simply made mistakes.**"**

—Pres. Dieter F. Uchdorf, Mormon Apostle

Oct 2013 worldwide semi-annual conference re: his church's "values, principles, or doctrine"

3. For Mormons, beliefs are flexible, and some are optional, creating an extra-biblical milieu.

A DOCTRINE: EXTRATERRESTRIALS

"And scattered among [billions of planets in the universe], as the Prophet Joseph Smith testified, are worlds whose 'inhabitants...are begotten sons and daughters unto God.'"**

—*Ensign*, the Mormon church's flagship magazine citing its scripture (Doctrine and Covenants 76:24)

"In His Image," August 2013

According to Joseph Smith, knowledge about extraterrestrial life was revealed to him in a vision in 1832, in which he conversed with Jesus Christ.

Q: Why should Christians know information like this about Mormon religion?

A: Joseph Smith's story illustrates the Mormon church's reliance, not on the Bible, but on its new scriptures, visions, and prophets.

Q: Do Mormons, like the ones I know, believe these things? Don't they also believe in the Bible?

A: Mormons do use the Bible, but are told that it is incomplete and in some cases flat-out wrong. Mormons may or may not believe in extraterrestrials fathered by God. The doctrine is not required for church membership. But the underlying assumption of the religion is that its prophets and doctrines are true, whether or not individual members are persuaded on the details.

Q: Could this be one of the doctrinal "mistakes" Mormon leaders have made? Will they say so?

A: Not likely. This doctrine and others may someday die quietly, simply ignored, excused, or explained away—unofficially by members or officially by church authorities. Some nineteenth and twentieth century doctrines and practices have been reversed by more recent visions, and the church says more revelations will come.

Q: How does the doctrine of extraterrestrial life relate to other Mormon doctrines and practices? What does this have to do with sin and the gospel?

A: The religion teaches that God created and populated many "earths." On this earth we look like the parents. Logically, extraterrestrial children of the same parents also would look like them—and like us. Offspring may become gods, creators, and heavenly parents after they are tested and "saved." Nowadays, on this earth, salvation (eternal life) requires marriage in a Mormon temple..

More to come: p.s. #6, "Why you need to know about Kolob," soon to be published, looks at a tale in the Mormon scripture canon about Abraham and the unusual physical and spiritual worlds of Mormonism revealed to him. You can receive the paper and related papers as they are published by joining the email [mailing list](#) at our church website.

*Emphasis added. The *Modern Reformation* article can be read on the Web. **Emphasis added.