



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Damned Deceptions:
Class 03
Who Is Jesus?

The Mormons will declare that they believe in Jesus Christ
Our response should be "Which Jesus?"

It does matter what you believe when it comes to your salvation
Believing the wrong thing – no matter how strongly you believe – can still send you to Hell

"Latter-day Saints are Christians because they emphatically believe in Christ, use His name in their official church title, and believe in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, which testify repeatedly of the reality of Christ and the truth of His teachings..."

“...Mormons are Christians.
Christians are those who accept
Christ as their Savior.”

[Gilbert W. Scharffs *The Truth About
“The God-Makers” Publisher Press
1986 pages 6 – 20*]

It is very important when dealing
with a contract, such as the Bible,
that you define the terms used in
the contract

We have seen previously that
Jesus is defined as God who
separated from the Trinity,
entered the world through a virgin
birth and became human

What I discovered in my research
on the Latter Day Church –
looking at their own documents
and teachers – the Jesus they are
named after is not the Jesus
identified in the Bible

They are not, and cannot be, the
same person

When we come to our discussion on salvation, we will discover that Jesus has nothing to do with salvation as far as a Latter Day Church male is concerned

I was also surprised to discover that there is no plan of salvation for a Latter Day Church woman outside of her husband

So when the Latter Day Church claims that they accept Jesus as their Savior, that would not be true

They are saved by their own works and not by accepting Jesus as their Savior who died for their sins.

We will discuss all of this in more detail on the night we focus on the Plan of Salvation taught by the Bible versus the Plan of Salvation taught by the Latter Day Church

They are not the same thing
They are not even close

Let me start this lesson with the promise God made to Moses and the Children of Israel

Exodus 6:6:

“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH A STRETCHED OUT ARM, and with great judgments...”

God just promised to redeem us
It is God who has made this promise, not someone else
If anyone else dies for our sins in order to redeem us, then God has failed to keep His promise
This means that God has lied

Keep in mind the two truths God revealed about Himself:
God does not change
God cannot lie

Applying these two truths, whoever redeems us must be God
God promised to redeem us personally
He is going to redeem us with a stretched out arm

If anyone else does this
Or if it is done in any other way
God has not kept this promise He made to Moses
Again, God has lied

I touched on this topic just briefly
in our opening class

John noted that the test for
something being from God
focuses on what they teach about
Jesus

John chose to pick one specific
aspect of Jesus and use this as
the test of where something is of
God or of Satan

John chose the Incarnation

In other words, Is Jesus God?
Does it make a difference if Jesus
is God?

Does it make a difference that
Jesus entered the human race
through a Virgin Birth?

Let's go back to the very first promise God gave to Adam and Eve to provide deliverance from their sins

Genesis 3:15:

“And I will put enmity [hostility] between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Satan, through Adam and Eve, had just given birth to sin
With the introduction of sin, death was also born into the world
Sin and Death are the seed of the serpent [Satan]

“Her seed” refers to the Seed of the Woman

Many people miss this subtle reference

This is the first prophecy of a Virgin Birth

God has just predicted a spiritual war between Satan and God

Satan has introduced sin and death into the world

The Seed of the Woman is going to deliver a fatal wound to sin & death

And the Seed of the Woman will be injured in the process

Now I need to make a point here – especially in light of the teachings of the Latter Day Church

When God refers to the Seed of the Woman, He is describing a self-contained reproductive system

Nothing is added to Mary from any outside source

God has made it possible for her body to produce both the egg, and the seed [sperm]

The seed has always been a reference to the man:

The Seed of Abraham

The Seed of Isaac

The Seed of Jacob

By giving a woman her own seed She will produce both the egg and the seed in her womb

For lack of a better description, Mary impregnated herself

Mary is able to create a male body in her womb without the aid of anyone else's genetic material
If anyone else adds to this reproduction process, it ceases to be the Seed of the Woman and becomes the seed of whoever added to the process

Now there had to be one major difference with Mary's pregnancy...
Normally when an egg and the seed [sperm] join it creates life and it creates a new soul

In this case it may have created life, but I suspect that it did not create a new soul
This was a soulless embryo which made it possible for Jesus to join Himself with this embryo in Mary's womb,
He became the soul for this body

This way Jesus was able to step out of Heaven and be physically born into the human race
He became human forever
He would never stop being human
He needed to do this in order to fulfill the Law of Moses

Leviticus 25:25:
“If your brother has become poor, and has sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.”

In order for someone to redeem us they must:
Be related to us by birth
Have the price of redemption
Be willing to redeem us

God wanted to redeem us
But the Redeemer must meet all
of the requirements in order to
redeem
It does not matter how much you
want to redeem if you do not
legally qualify as the Redeemer

So the first requirement under this
legal system is that the Redeemer
must be a kinsman – related to us
by birth
God does not qualify as our
Redeemer
He is our Creator, not our
kinsman

Second, the Redeemer must have
the price to redeem:
Hebrews 9:22:
“And almost all things are by the
law purged with blood; and
without [the] shedding of blood
[there] is no remission.”

God does not have the price to
redeem us:

He is a Spirit

He has no blood

He cannot die

This is why God had to be born
into the human race

Although Jesus can and has
assumed human form in the
Old Testament, this did not give
Him the legal relation by birth
with us to serve as our
Redeemer

Jesus had to be born into the
human race

Jesus became that part of the
Trinity who became legally
entitled to redeem us

He set aside His divinity

He entered a virgin's womb,
and fused with human DNA

Once He was born into the human race, not only did He have the legal relationship required by law, He now had the price to pay for our redemption:
He had His own blood that could be shed
He could die

So how does the birth of Jesus taught by the Cults compare to the birth of Jesus taught by the Bible?

I want to focus this part of the lesson on the birth of Jesus
If Jesus is not God becoming human through the Virgin Birth, then who is Jesus and how was He born?

According to official Mormon teaching, Jesus Christ was “begotten” as the first spirit-child of the Father (Elohim) and one of his unnamed wives (often referred to as “Heavenly Mother”)...

“...Jesus, as a spirit-son, then progressed in the spirit world until He became a God.”
[Robert M. Bowman, *How Mormons Are Defending Mormon Doctrine*, Christian Research Journal, Fall 1989, page 24]

“Christ, ‘by obedience and devotion to the truth . . . attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked Him as a God.’”
[Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, Salt Lake City Utah, Bookcraft 1966, page 129]

These sources contradict Mormon teachings

Per Mormon teachings, you must be born into the human race in order to attain Godhood

Here Jesus attained Godhood before He was born into the human race

Which is it?

The problem with researching the doctrines of the Latter Day Church is that doctrine will contradict other doctrines

When the prior sources noted that Jesus was not a God before He was born, notice this statement...

“Prior to his incarnation, Jesus was the Jehovah of the Old Testament.”

[The Holy Bible, The Authorized King James Version with Explanatory Notes and Cross References to the Standard Works of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City Utah, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1990]

“Jehovah is the premortal Jesus Christ and came to earth being born of Mary.”

[Per Mormon theology “pre-existence” is known as our First Estate, “mortality” is known as our Second Estate.]

I have to ask as question...

“Wasn’t Jehovah the name of the God the Children of Israel worshiped?”

That is true

In fact, JeHoVaH is a translation of the Hebrew name YHWH

What we will see is that the Latter Day Church takes the various names for God and makes them multiple Gods, not multiple names for the same God:

Elohem

Adoni

YHWH/Jehovah

“How was Jesus conceived in Mary’s womb?”

Mormon doctrine actually teaches that Jesus, in His mortal state, was begotten through sexual relations between a flesh-and-bone Heavenly Father and Mary—the only earthly offspring so conceived.”

[Ron Rhodes, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons* Harvest House Publishers page 268]

“Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.”

[Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, Salt Lake City Utah, Bookcraft 1966, pages 546 - 547]

“There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived, and born in the normal and natural course of events, for he is the Son of God, and that designation means what it says.”

[Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, Salt Lake City Utah, Bookcraft 1966, page 742]

“The man Joseph, the husband of Mary, did not, that we know of, have more than one wife, but Mary, the wife of Joseph, had another husband—that is, God the Father.”

[Brigham Young, Deseret News, October 10, 1866]

Mormon Doctrine argued that even though Mary had sexual relations with God, she remained a virgin. Bruce McConkie claims “virgin” refers to someone who has not had sexual relations with a “mortal man.”

God is not moral, but immortal
Therefore she was still a virgin
Is THAT the best you can do?

Let's discuss a glaring contradiction in the Mormon doctrines concerning the Father of Jesus

“Christ is not the Son of the Holy Ghost, but of the Father.”
[Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*,
Salt Lake City, UT, Bookcraft,
1975, 1:18 – 20]

However, The Book of Mormon clearly states that the Holy Ghost was the father of Jesus

“Behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.”

[Book of Mormon, Alma 7:10]

But this is not the only problem with their teaching concerning the birth of Jesus.

Let’s take a closer look at the Latter Day Church’s teaching of the Virgin Birth...

The Virgin Birth

They Say: They believe that God as an Exalted physical man is the literal father of Jesus. God the Father came in and had sexual relations with Mary for Jesus to be conceived on earth.

We Say: Mary was a virgin. By definition; there was no sex involved

“Jesus was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.”

[Bruce McConkie
Mormon Doctrine
page 546 – 547]

“How was Jesus conceived?
Mormon doctrine actually teaches that Jesus, in His mortal state, was begotten through sexual relations between a flesh-and-bone Heavenly Father and Mary—the only earthly offspring so conceived.”

[Rhodes, Ron. Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons (p. 268)]

So many comments come to mind at this point, but I will refrain.

Isaiah 7:14:

“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.’”

Notice three important facts from this prophecy:

God is the one who created this sign

The woman is a virgin when she conceives

The woman is still a virgin when she gives birth [bares]

What part of "virgin" does the Latter Day Church not understand?

The Mormon response to this is to redefine terms – make them mean something else

They define a virgin as someone who has not had sex with a "mortal" man

There is also a serious problem with their version – beside the fact that physical sex was reported to have taken place

In addition to Mary being a virgin, she was espoused to Joseph

This means she was considered to be his wife under the Law of Moses

Did God just sleep with another man's wife?

That is what the Mormon teaching is telling us

Doesn't this mean that God just committed adultery?

Yes, it does

Doesn't that mean that God just committed a sin?

That's exactly what it means

Therefore, the Mormon God is a sinful God

He broke the Law

He defiled another man's wife

Why would we have anything to do with such a God?

He does not respect the sanctity of the home

He does not protect marriages

He has sex with whomever He desires

THAT is not the God of the Bible

There is an even more far-reaching consequence of this teaching
Mary was not married to God if they had sex
Mary did not ever marry God
This means that Jesus was born out of wedlock

The Law of Moses forbids a “bastard” from entering into the Temple for Ten Generations
Deuteronomy 23:2:
“A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord.”

It was this very Law that made God wait until David was born to select a King for Israel
Judah and Tamar had children outside of marriage
David was the 10th generation
Jesse was barred by this law –
David was not

This means that Jesus would not be allowed to enter the Temple
The Scribes and Pharisees kept commenting on His birth;
But Mary was espoused to Joseph when she conceived and when she gave birth
They could not keep Jesus out

A couple who were espoused were allowed to have relations while espoused; but it was frowned upon socially
God waited until Mary was espoused to Joseph to give both her and Jesus the protection of the marriage vows

If Mary had physical relations – sex; then she could no longer be considered a virgin.
The prophecy of Isaiah would be a false prophecy
Everything Isaiah spoke on behalf of God would be rejected as it came from a false prophet

Jesus would no longer be sinless
and this bar against Him would
disqualify Him as God's Passover
Lamb

His death would not/could not
break the power of sin

Nor could we be forgiven of our
sins

If this teaching is true the Bible is
false, Jesus is not qualified to die
for our sins, we are still lost and
going to Hell.

Ask a Mormon how they would fix
this if it were true

Again, they will just redefine the
terminology

As a closing thought on this topic,
consider Deuteronomy 6:4 with
the Hebrew names inserted:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD
[YHWH or Jehovah] our God
[Elohim] is one LORD [YHWH or
Jehovah]"

What does this mean per Mormon doctrine?

If Jesus is YHWH

And YHWH is also Elohim

Then Jesus impregnated His own mother [Mary] – incest!

THIS is why the doctrine of the Virgin Birth is so important

Could Jesus have been a God [YHWH] prior to His birth in Bethlehem?

According to Mormon Doctrine, this would have been impossible

Abraham 3:25 [Pearl of Great Price] declares that taking on a physical body is a prerequisite to eternal progression.

You have your “premortal” state as spirit-babies

You progress to a physical body

You die

In your "post-mortal" Estate you progress to an Exalted Mortal state
This eventually leads to Godhood.
To becoming Exalted Men – gods.

As punishment for their rebellion, Satan and his followers are not permitted to have human bodies so that they can never advance to becoming Exalted Men – gods.

Therefore, Jesus could not have been a god prior to His birth when He received a physical body.
How do you explain this contradiction?

“As for the Devil and his fellow spirits, they are brothers to man and also to Jesus and sons and daughters of God in the same sense that we are.”

[John Henry Evans, *An American Prophet*, Macmillan, 1933 page 241]

How can Jesus be the Spirit Brother to Lucifer?
Lucifer is a created being
Jesus is the Begotten Son of God
These are completely different descriptions of different processes

Further, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the one who created Lucifer and all the angelic beings
Colossians 1:16:

“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:”

Jesus existed before anything else
He is the reason that everything exists

Colossian 1:17:

“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.”

The Mormon Jesus was a polygamist

He was married to at least four wives:

The marriage in Cana

To Mary – sister of Martha

To Martha – the sister of Mary

To Mary Magdalene

“It will be borne in mind that...there was a marriage in Cana...and on a careful reading of that transaction, it will be discovered that...Jesus Christ was married on that occasion...”

“... If he was never married, his intimacy with Mary and Martha, and the other Mary also whom Jesus loved, must have been highly unbecoming and improper to say the best of it.”

[Orson Hyde, *Journal and Discourses*, 13:259]

The Mormons teach Jesus was married not because of any Biblical passage, but based upon their own doctrines

“...no one can attain exaltation to the fullness of the blessings of the celestial kingdom outside of the marriage relationship.”

[*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:65]

Mormons teach that they should not worship Jesus

However, they teach that Jesus was Jehovah [YHWH] before His birth

And the Old Testament instructs us to worship YHWH

There are many accounts in the New Testament where Jesus received the worship of men

A leper worshiped Him (Matthew 8:2);

A ruler bowed before Him in worship (Matthew 9:18);

A blind man worshiped Him (John 9:38);

A woman worshiped Him (Matthew 15:25);

Mary Magdalene worshiped Him (Matthew 28:9);

The disciples worshiped Him (Matthew 28:17).

This is the same worship that rightfully belongs to God [YHWH]

If Jesus accepted their worship then; why does He not deserve the same worship now?

Revelation 4:10 – 11:
“The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sat on the throne, and worshiped Him who lives for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying...”

Revelation 4:10 – 11:
“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created.”

This appears to be God
It is the God that the Mormons are to deal with at the exclusion of all other gods
He is on the throne
He received worship because He deserves worship
He made all things – not just the earth

Revelation 5:11 – 14:

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...”

“Saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing...’ ”

“...And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, ‘Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him who sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever....’ ”

“...And the four beasts said,
'Amen.' And the twenty-four
elders fell down and worshipped
Him that lives for ever and ever.”

Who is the one sitting on the
throne?
This would be God the Father
He made all things – not just the
earth
Who is the Lion who appears as a
Lamb slain?
That would be Jesus

Notice in Revelation 5:13, both
the one on the throne and the
Lamb are being worshiped
Are all of those in Heaven
worshiping Jesus?

Now, if Jesus was YHHW before He was born

And the one on the throne is YHWH

Did YHWH become someone else?

In Christian teaching, Jesus was God the Son prior to His birth so both can be present before the throne

If a Mormon tries to claim that they are the same person, have them read Revelation 5:7:

“And He [the Lamb] came and took the book out of the right hand of Him [YHWH] who sat upon the throne.”

Did Jesus take the book from Himself?

They also teach that they should not pray to Jesus

[McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, page 587]

Why do the Mormons not pray to Jesus?

Per the Mormons, Jesus is the Jehovah of the Old Testament

The Old Testament commands us to pray to Jehovah:

Deuteronomy 4:7;

2 Chronicles 7:14;

Psalms 5:2;

Psalms 32:6;

Jeremiah 29:7,12

If we are commanded to pray to YHWH...
And Jesus is YHWH
Why do you not pray to Him now?

This is a serious problem for the Mormon
Paul wrote in Romans 10:13:
“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

To “call” upon Jesus is to pray to Jesus
If the Mormon follows the teaching of the Mormon Church and refuses to pray to Jesus
That teaching – of the Mormon Church – will keep them from ever being saved!

We are now going to take a few moments to consider the teachings concerning Jesus held by the Jehovah's Witnesses

The reason I am not putting a lot of detail into the Jehovah's Witnesses is that, unlike the Latter Day Church, this is what I would classify as a simple deception

The Latter Day Church has created an elaborate deception replacing everything from God and the creation to Heaven and everything in between

The Jehovah's Witnesses have left the structure intact and chosen instead to make subtle changes to the Bible to support their doctrines

So I can summarize their false doctrines and rebut them in a shorter period of time

I John 4:3:

“And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh [is God born into the human race] is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ”

We will focus on the question of whether or not Jesus is God

The answer to this question will render all other questions moot.

If Jesus is God, then all the other doctrines and teaching of the Jehovah’s Witness fall under the category of a teaching of Antichrist and should be rejected.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Latter Day Church cannot be wrong about whether Jesus is God and be correct in all their other teachings.

The source of all their other teachings is called into question if they are wrong about this.

However, if they are correct, and Jesus is not God the issue has even greater ramifications than they realize

As we discussed earlier, the Redeemer must be God

If Jesus is not God; then He does not qualify as the Redeemer

Not only us, but everyone in the world will be without a Redeemer
The entire world will be lost in their sins

There will be no hope for anyone

We are all sinners

We will all go to Hell when we die

There will be no way to avoid this

The Bible teaches that:

Jesus is God, the Son of God who separated from the Trinity and was born into the human race.

He is the Begotten Son of God

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that:

Jesus is a god, but not the God.

There is no Trinity.

Jesus is a Created being

Jesus is actually Michael the Archangel

The Jehovah's Witnesses teach:

That the Father alone is God,
True worshipers must call Him by His true name – *Jehovah*.

Witnesses are taught that Jesus is merely a manifestation of Michael the Archangel in human form – not God, but merely a created being.

Consider John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only BEGOTTEN Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Jesus – in Watchtower theology – is merely an angel.

He is the first angel God created when He began creating angels.

JWs identify Jesus as Michael the archangel, although they call him *Jesus the Son of God* – because the first spirit person God made is like a first born son to Him.

These are the doctrines taught by Jehovah's Witnesses:

Jesus was a god

Jesus was the Archangel Michael

Jesus never taught that he was God

The Bible does not teach that Jesus is God

The arguments for Jesus to be God are several:

Prophecy teaches Jesus is God

Jesus used titles to refer to Himself that are reserved only for God

Jesus claimed to be equal to God

Jesus accepts worship reserved only for God

Jesus claims power and authority reserved only for God

The Bible documents that Jesus:

Directly claimed to be God

Indirectly claimed to be God

Spoke as if He were God

Did what only God could to do

Accepted worship that was only to be given to God

Question:

If Jesus made all of these claims to be God

And He was not God, but an angel

Can an angel lie?

If Jesus lied, can anything He taught be trusted?

Ever?

QUESTIONS


