

# Lutherans and Other Denominations

## Non-Christian Cults

Welcome and Opening Prayer

### Mormons

Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844) = Grew up during times of circuit riders, revivals, creation of new sects  
*He convincingly demonstrated that it is possible to deceive some people with the most absurd religious claims.*

- 1820 - Vision 1 (14 years old) = At a revival meeting, he prayed for guidance on which church to join  
Vision of God and Christ = Told him not to join any, they were all wrong
- 1823 - Vision 2 (17 years old)  
Visited in a vision by angel Moroni = Smith was selected to translate the Book of Mormon
- 1827 - Vision 3 (21 years old) = Palmyra is near Rochester between Rochester and Syracuse  
Moroni showed location to Smith = Hillside near Palmyra, New York (Mount Cumorah)  
Book written on golden plates in "Reformed Egyptian" hieroglyphics = Rolled off presses in 1830  
Able to translate plates using mysterious spectacles = Helped by Oliver Cowdery & Sidney Rigdon  
Moroni took tablets back when Smith finished = Sacredness prevented display
- 1829 - Vision 4 (23 years old) = Given the "priesthood of Aaron"  
Smith and Cowdery ordained by John the Baptist through visions = Told to baptize each other
- 1829 - Vision 5 (23 years old)  
Visited by Peter, James & John = Given the "priesthood of Melchizedek" and keys of apostleship

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

- April 6, 1830 - *Church of Christ* founded by 5 in Fayetteville, NY farmhouse = (Syracuse area)  
Smith received revelations to solve doctrinal and organizational problems = Grew as Books distributed
- 1831 - Headquarters moved to Kirtland, Ohio = (Cleveland area) Left opposition building in New York
- 1832 - Settled in Independence, Missouri = (Kansas City area) Smith said this was New Zion, Kicked out
- 1838 - Fled to Far West, Missouri = (N of Kansas City), Missouri governor signed Extermination Order
- 1839 - Moved across river and settled Nauvoo, Illinois, Smith was mayor = (At Ill, Iowa, Mo border)
- 1844 - Smith arrested for rioting, polygamy, treason = Killed by mob while in prison in Carthage, Illinois  
Brigham Young took over Smith's position = Some rejected Young's leadership and split off into 25 groups  
Reorganized LDS (now Community of Christ) = Lead by Smith's descendants, HQ in Independence (130K)
- 1847 - Young led group to Salt Lake, Utah = Built city in open valley, 1853 - Started Temple, Completed 1893
- 1930 - FLDS (Fundamentalist LDS) split when LDS stopped polygamy and excommunicated members = 6-10K  
2008 - 462 children taken by Texas CPS (Child Protective Services) from YFZ Ranch in El Dorado, Tx  
Around 4.5 million in US, 8MM world-wide = Growing 2%/yr (5% in 1950s-1980s, 2-3% before that)

### Book of Mormon

- Tells story of God's western people = Bible is the story of God's eastern people
- Part 1 - Jared's descendants = Came to America after Babel, Became extinct about 600 BC  
Ether recorded story on gold plates = Moroni found these plates later
- Part 2 - Lehi's descendants = Came to America from Jerusalem around 600 BC  
Descendants of son Nephi were pious = Christ appeared to them after his ascension  
Descendants of son Laman were wicked and nudists = Became what we know as Indians  
War between races resulted in Nephite extinction around 385 AD

Mormon, a Nephite prophet, wrote down history - Son Moroni copied onto gold plates and buried  
Probable source - *Manuscript Found* by Solomon Spalding (Presby minister) = Novel on origin of American Indians  
Sidney Rigdon - Baptist minister turned Disciple = Probably copied and modified *Manuscript Found*  
Contains many references to Disciples of Christ theology  
Uses phraseology of KJV = written 1200 years later  
Refers to controversies & events of 1800s = Mentions animals brought to America from Europe much later

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### Other Doctrinal Sources

Bible

Must be translated correctly = Mainly intended for Eastern world

*Pearl of Great Price* = Smith's translation of the Bible

Book of Moses = Contains visions of Moses, Says devil organized Masonry (Smith opposed Masonry)

Book of Abraham = Supports polygamy

*Doctrines and Covenants* = Divine revelations to Smith

God will continue to reveal many things to church leaders = Same idea as divine tradition of Pope

### God

Man's soul is the literal offspring of God = Put into human body on earth for a probationary period

*"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be."* = Progressively & eternally become more & more perfect

Man becomes more god-like but never equals God = God also progresses to a higher state

Brigham Young claimed that Adam is our God = Modern Mormons disagree

May be any number of gods, all with physical bodies

Father and Son have perfect physical bodies = flesh and blood - Bible speaks of "eyes of God", "hands of God", etc.

Holy Spirit doesn't have a body = All 3 are separate but have the same purpose and operation

Elohim = God, the Father - Only Father is God

Jehovah = Jesus in prenatal state

Christ came to bring laws and ordinances of the Gospel

Pay for sins by obeying laws of the church = Pay only for your own sins - no original sin

### End of the World

Body and spirit are separated temporarily at death = Spirit waits in Paradise for end

Exact number of spirits to become human = Christ will come when all have been born

Christ will rule 1000 years while Satan is bound = Will establish 2 centers of rule

Jerusalem in East, Zion in West (Independence, Missouri) = Salt Lake City is only the temporary home

Gospel will be preached to the faithful (1 Peter 3:18-20)

Satan will be released for a final tempting = Will be destroyed in Battle of Armageddon

Men will go to their respective glories

### Heaven

There is no hell - everyone goes to heaven = Three Glories (Heavens), similar to life on earth

Testial Glory - Lowest Level

Committed gross sins, Rejected true gospel = Be happy and useful; Not in presence of Father and Son

Terrestrial Glory - Middle Level

Didn't accept gospel on earth, did after death = Rich blessings; Not in presence of Father, visited by Son

Celestial Glory - Highest Level = Progressively become like gods

Accepted true gospel on earth, Obeyed church commands = Unspeakable joy, Presence of Father and Son

### Miscellaneous

Must be baptized in temple by immersion to achieve celestial glory = Living descendants can act as proxy for dead

Opens celestial glory if gospel is accepted after death = This is reason for emphasis on tracing ancestry

Must be married for eternity to enter celestial glory = Must be performed in temple, Other marriages only for earth

Woman can be "sealed" to dead man = Man may accept or not, Children may be "sealed" to their parents

Widow men can remarry, Women cannot remarry = man is head of the woman, Polygamy by males in heaven ok

Earthly polygamy eliminated by church in 1890 = Polygamy provides bodies for waiting souls to enter

Must tithe and Spend 2 years as a missionary

Forbid alcohol, caffeine (tea, coffee, Cokes), tobacco = This was a Smith revelation

*Class materials are available at [www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations](http://www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations)*

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### Unitarians

Unitarian Universalist Association = 160K in US

1961 - Merger of American Unitarian Association and Universalist Church of America

American Unitarian Association - Founded 1825 = No creeds, Reject deity of Christ

From liberal wing of Congregational Church = Doctrine still set at congregational and individual levels

Universalist Church of America - Adopted a Declaration in 1793

Extreme Arminian - All humanity will be saved, regardless of faith

Reject deity of Christ, Salvation is from good character = Try to inspire people to live right

*No member, minister or congregation shall be required to subscribe to any particular interpretation of religion, or to any particular religious belief or creed*

### Christian Science

Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) = Raised as Congregationalist (non-creedal, doctrine determined by congregation)

Sickly, very emotional, hysterical fits from childhood = Eddy learned to heal herself by right thinking:

1862 - "Divinely healed" by Phineas P Quimby = Hypnotist, taught that sickness is only imagination

1875 - Published *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* = Based on Quimby's ideas, plus others

Only way to understand the Bible = Divine revelation explaining Christ's scientific methods of healing

1879 - Established *Church of Christ, Scientist* in Boston = Denomination is still led by this Mother Church

Main Points = Can read both ways

God is everything. = Even man is God.

God is Mind. = The only thing real is Divine Mind.

Nothing is matter. = Since everything is Divine Mind, nothing physically exists.

God denies evil. = God and evil cannot co-exist.

Since sickness, pain and death are evil, they don't exist. = They are only illusions in our minds.

Contrasts

Christian Science

Everything is Spirit

"Scientific" discovery

Mormon

Even God and heaven are physical

Divine revelations = Science in that beliefs can be demonstrated

Christ was only a man who understood Divine Mind

No ministers - Only Lecturers and Practitioners

Practitioners have office hours and fees like doctors = Read from Bible and S&H to sick person

Tries to persuade patient to turn mind from negative to positive thoughts

Not faith healers = Nothing miraculous, only an understanding

### Unity School of Christianity

Charles and Myrtle Fillmore

1887 - Myrtle cured by Christian Science practitioner of what she thought was tuberculosis

Combined Christian Science, Bible, Transcendentalism, New Thought, Quaker, Theosophy, Rosicrucian, Spiritism & Hindu

Intended to be a religious educational institution instead of a church or denomination

"The true church is a state of consciousness in man" = "Teachings built on ancient truths and concepts"

Other non-Christian cults continue along these mindsets - Theosophy, Spiritism, New Thought, Lodges

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### Jehovah Witness

Charles T. Russell (1852-1916)

Raised as a Congregationalist = Bothered by Calvin's predestination of the damned

Liked ideas of Adventists = Took basic Adventism and built on it

1872 - Organized study group that became *The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society* = Had many name changes

Called at times: Millennial Dawn People, International Bible Studies Association, People's Pulpit of Brooklyn, Russellites

*Jehovah Witnesses* since 1931 = Isaiah 43:10 - "You are my witnesses"

God = Unitarian

Only the Father is God = Must be called Jehovah, "God" and "Lord" are man-made terms

Christ is not God = Originally an angel, Became a man, Now an Archangel - Can call him god or lord (lower case)

Holy Spirit is only the power of Jehovah = Not a separate being

Sin

God gave Satan permission to prove that man can't obey

Satan created 3 allies - Organized religion, Politics, Commercialism = Forbid anything dealing with these

Some Forbidden Items - Blood transfusions, Catholics, Christmas trees, communism, civic groups, doctrine of hell, doctrine of immortality, evolution, flag saluting, higher education, liquor, lodges, Protestants, priests, pope, public office, military service, movies, Mother's Day, religion, Sunday Schools, Trinity, tobacco, United Nations, voting, YMCA, Wall Street, women's rights

Eternal Life

Man originally had right to live forever = Right was lost when man sinned

Christ came and won the right back by not sinning = Had to be only man to win right to life

Gave his right to the world by dying = God gave him immortality of the soul in exchange

Millennium

1914 - Russell's prediction date for Christ's return to rule = Based on Daniel and Revelation

After 1914 passed, Russell claimed Christ was placed on throne in heaven

Satan is gathering forces for Battle of Armageddon, Allies will be destroyed = JWs will watch from mountaintops

Christ will rule earth from heaven = Headquarters will be in San Diego, California

Man will be divided into four groups

"Great Mystery Class" = This is the church referred to in the Bible

144,000 JWs who traded right to life for immortality of the soul = Will rule with Christ in heaven

Old Testament Believers = Christ hadn't come yet, Will be rulers on earth forever

Jonadab Class = Jehovah Witnesses besides 144,000, Live on earth forever

Second Chancers = Non-JWs will be given a second chance

100 years probation under most favorable conditions = If you sin, you are wiped out (no hell)

Satan will be released for a final tempting, then destroyed

Bible

Quote out of context to prove a point = ex. No blood transfusions per Leviticus 17:10

Allegorize the Scriptures = "This refers to that" - Allows quoting out of context

Bible can't be understood except through JW study = Have their own translation, Others have serious errors

Membership = 1MM in US, 7MM in world

Insist they are not a church = Organized religion is from Satan

Building - *Kingdom Hall*, Parish or Congregation - *Company*, Worship - *Instruction*

Every member is a minister = At least 60 hours/month witnessing - Door-to-door, selling books, teaching classes

Part-time - *Publisher*, Full-time - *Pioneer*

Generally from poorer areas of society = HQ worker receive monthly stipend plus room and board

Some don't marry, some don't have children = The end is near and there's too much to be done

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