

What the Book of Mormon

DOES NOT

Teach (about God)

Who Do We Teach that God is?

From Community of Christ Website (former RLDS)



God

“We believe in one living God who meets us in the testimony of Israel, is revealed in Jesus Christ, and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. **We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three persons.**”

From LDS Website



Godhead

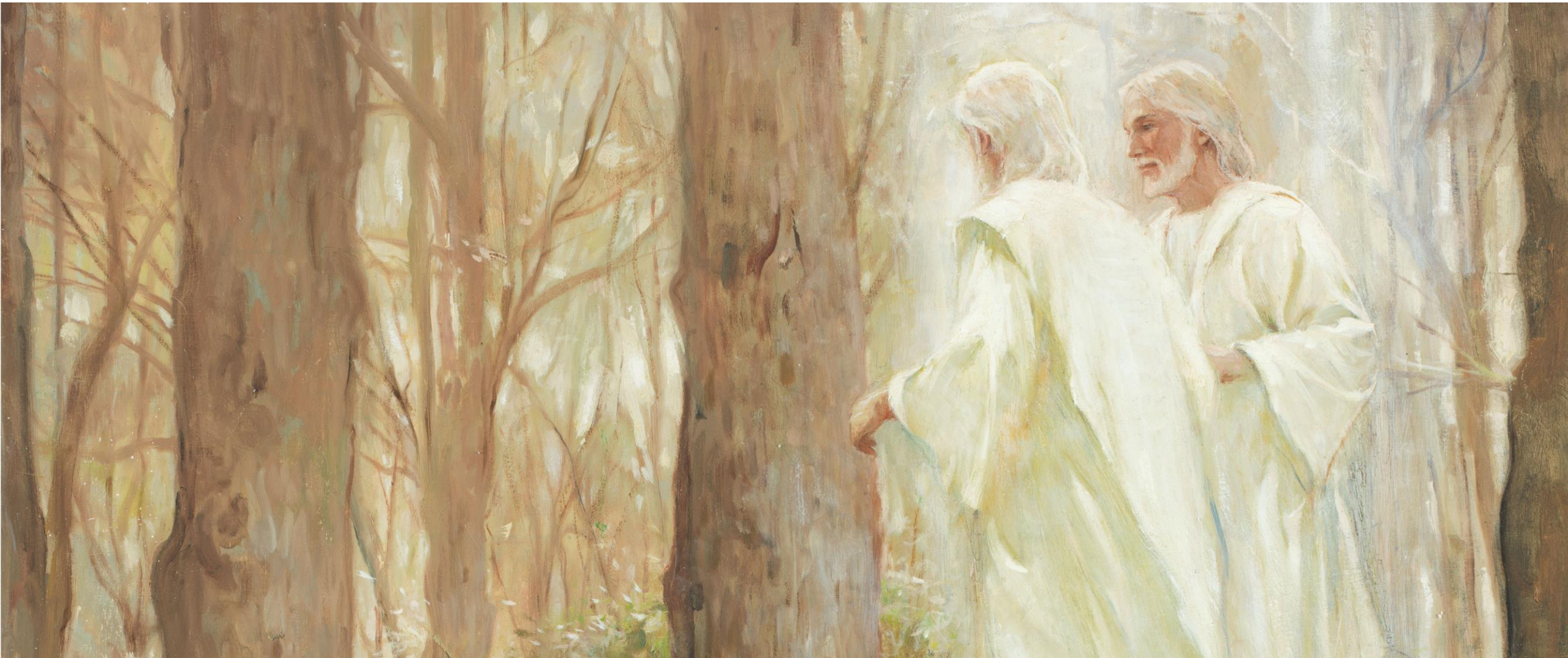
“The Church’s first article of faith states, “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”¹

These three beings make up the Godhead.

They preside over this world and all other creations of our Father in Heaven.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/godhead?lang=eng>

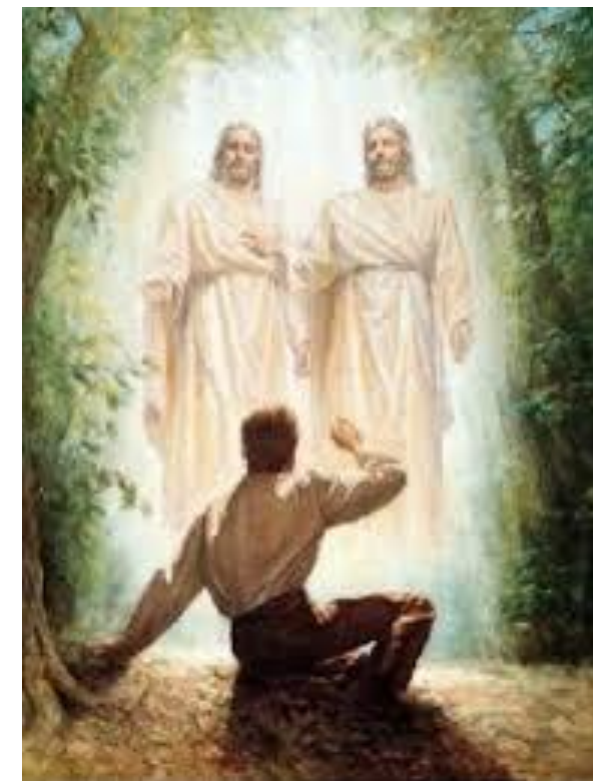
<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/the-first-vision-journey-to-the-sacred-grove?lang=eng>



Two Personages Taught....It's everywhere



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Vision



<https://theclio.com/entry/6688>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/sacred-grove>

From Restoration Website

Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch

(819 West Waldo Ave., Independence, MO 64050)

Branch Bylaws

“THE GODHEAD: We believe in God the Eternal Father, and his son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. We believe that God, the Father, and Christ the Son, are two separate personages.”

Apparently it didn't happen this way.

Yet, we write of it,

We sing of it,

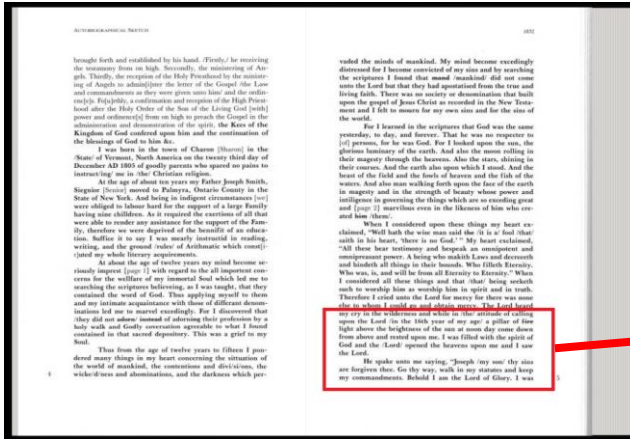
We teach our children of two personages, but Joseph Smith's diary account names **ONLY ONE.**



Joseph Smith II Saw only ONE Personage

- It was written in his own personal Diary.
- The statement of '2 Personages' all came years later.

Joseph Smiths Diary (First Account)

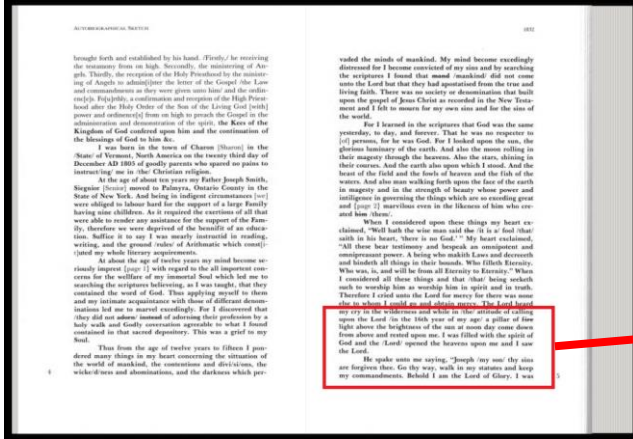


Therefore I cried unto the Lord for mercy for there was none else to whom I could go and obtain mercy. The Lord heard my cry in the wilderness and while in /the/ attitude of calling upon the Lord /in the 16th year of my age/ a pillar of fire light above the brightness of the sun at noon day come down from above and rested upon me. I was filled with the spirit of God and the /Lord/ opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord.

He spake unto me saying, "Joseph /my son/ thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes and keep my commandments. Behold I am the Lord of Glory. I was

Joseph's original diary only points to ONE personage

Joseph Smiths Diary (First Account)



Joseph's original diary only points to ONE personage

crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have Eternal life. /Behold/ the world lieth in sin at this time and none doeth good, no not one. They have turned aside from the gospel and keep not /my/ commandments. They draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me and mine anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth to visit them according to th/e/ir ungodliness and to bring to pass that which /hath/ been spoken by the mouth of the prophets and Ap/o/stles. Behold and lo, I come quickly as it [is] written of me, in the cloud /clothed/ in the glory of my Father."

With the Book of Mormon came:

- The Cost of Sin was Infinite. Payment required an INFINITE SACRIFICE.
- God will come to Earth as a Man.
- God would become the sacrifice. Jesus is God
- Men must repent and come to God with Broken Hearts/Contrite Spirits.
- A Simple Priesthood was offered.
- One Salvation-full return to God or full separation.
- Promises Explained through Covenant with Abraham.
- Teaches this life is the time to repent.
- We will be judged by its words (the words of the Book of Mormon)

With Book of Mormon came lessons:

- The Cost of Sin was Infinite. Payment required an INFINITE SACRIFICE.
- God will come to Earth as a Man.
- God would become the sacrifice. Jesus is God
- Men must repent and come to God with Broken Hearts/Contrite Spirits.
- A Simple Priesthood was offered.
- One Salvation-full return to God or full separation.
- Promises Explained through Covenant with Abraham.
- Teaches this life is the time to repent.
- We will be judged by its words (the words of the Book of Mormon)

After 1830, came many ideas NEVER MENTIONED in the Book of Mormon:

- 3 Gods
- Jesus is offspring of God
- Enoch Covenant, Enoch City
- Melchizedek Priesthood, Aaronic Priesthood
- Communion taught for Forgiveness
- Prison House Forgiveness after this life.
- Zion by Gathering of Gentiles
- Baptism for the dead
- Multiple Levels of Salvation
- Gentile church will 'rule'
- The idea that the church is 'restored' among Gentiles
- Works determine 'level' of salvation
- Gentile Temples
- Eternal Marriage
- Satan qualified as Savior
- Families populating other worlds
- That God feared going to the cross
- That Zion comes by Enoch City return
- Joseph Smith Holds the Keys to this dispensation
- Joseph Smith will Judge, standing with Peter, James, John.
- A Separation of salvation by not just group, but by congregation

The Book of Mormon teaches

God does not differentiate between Jew and Gentile,

2 Nephi 12:77 For behold I say unto you,
As many of the **Gentiles** as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord;
And as many of the **Jews** as will not repent shall be cast off;
(LDS: 2 Nephi 30:2)

...Yet restoration divides congregations (of Gentiles) based on perceived 'authority' whether accepted or rejected.

And this authority stems from a perceived adherence to teachings of Joseph Smith vs the Book of Mormon..

Parley Pratt -JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, PP 195-196

I have testified and do still testify of the truth of the Book of Mormon—
that it is an inspired record, the history of a branch of the house of
Israel that live in America; that it does contain the fulness of the Gospel
as revealed to them by a crucified and risen Redeemer; and that
wherever it goes and its light is permitted to shine, the Spirit of the
Lord will bear testimony of its truth to every honest heart in all the
world. Wherever that book is candidly perused, the Spirit will bear
record of its truth:

And I bear this testimony this day, that Joseph Smith was and is a
Prophet, Seer, and Revelator—an Apostle holding the keys of this last
dispensation and of the kingdom of God, under Peter, James, and John.

Parley Pratt -JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, PP 195-196

And not only that he was a Prophet and Apostle of Jesus Christ, and lived and died one, but that he now lives in the spirit world, and holds those same keys to usward and to this whole generation. Also that he will hold those keys to all eternity;

and no power in heaven or on the earth will ever take them from him; for he will continue holding those keys through all eternity, and will stand—yes, again in the flesh upon this earth, as the head of the Latter-day Saints under Jesus Christ, and under Peter, James, and John.

He will hold the keys to judge the generation to whom he was sent, and will judge my brethren that preside over me; and will judge me, together with the Apostles ordained by the word of the Lord through him and under his administration.

“Standing in the flesh under Jesus??”

Where did this come from?

- Why was No one in the Book of Mormon was treated this way?
- Why wasn't this said of Lehi or Nephi, or Abraham instead, or Jesus disciples?
- Why did Gentiles quickly shift away from Book of Mormon, creating a context about Joseph Smith that actually never existed.?
- Why?? Joseph had only one gift, to translate the book of Mormon. God used an uneducated man to fulfill this purpose. After that, Joseph's work was done.
- Why did Gentiles build up Joseph: the myth, the legacy, the lineage?

Because they had to make polygamy seem of GOD.

- The only way to perpetuate Polygamy, baptism for the dead, temple cash flow, was to make the person who it came from seem so important, you would never question.
- The only way to do this was to build up Joseph Smith to larger than life.
- This all brings shame to the Book of Mormon, makes Gentiles deny the true God, cause confusion on the real message of God.

Building up Joseph Smith

- Different groups for different reasons
- But (unfortunately) most of the 'conservative' in any group (LDS, RLDS, Restoration) feel allegiance to Joseph Smith is mandatory.
- In restoration, a piousness exists if you seem well acquainted with the life details of Joseph Smith. As if it makes you more spiritual.
- Be careful. Those teachings that came after the Book of Mormon contradict the Book of Mormon.
- Learn what the Book of Mormon teaches and stick to it.

Link at Restored Gospel—
Book of Mormon teaches Jesus IS God.

http://www.restoredgospel.com/PODCASTLINKS/GodTookOnFlesh_Complete.pdf

Remember The accusation against Abinadi

...Abinadi was murdered for teaching that God Himself would take on flesh.

Mosiah 9

10 And he said unto him: Abinadi, we have found an accusation against thee and thou art worthy of death,

11 For thou hast said that God Himself should come down among the children of men;

But for stating God would Take on Flesh...
Abinadi was killed.

Gentiles: don't make the same mistake.

2 Nephi 12:40

Wo be unto the Gentiles saith the Lord God of Hosts.

For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out Mine arm unto them from day to day,

They will deny Me.

The Real Presentation of Jesus

The Book of Mormon Teaches throughout its writing that God would Take on Flesh.

Here is one experience, the Brother of Jared's.

- RLDS: Ether 1:62-102 (LDS: [Ether 3:2](#) - [Ether 4:8](#))

Ether 1

69 And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared and he saw the finger of the Lord, And it was as the finger of a man - like unto flesh and blood; And the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.

Ether 1

76 And when he had said these words, Behold, the Lord showed Himself unto him and said: Because thou knowest these things, ye are redeemed from the fall; Therefore, ye are brought back into My presence; Therefore, I show Myself unto you.

Ether 1

(This was GOD speaking to the Bro of Jared.)

77 Behold, I Am He which was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem My people; Behold, I Am Jesus Christ, I Am the Father and the Son;

Ether 1

78 In Me shall all mankind have life and that eternally, even they which shall believe on My name, And they shall become My sons and My daughters;

Ether 1

80 Seest thou that ye are created after Mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after Mine own image;

Ether 1

81

Behold, this body which ye now behold is the body of My Spirit;

And man have I created after the body of My Spirit;

And even as I appear unto thee to be in the Spirit, will I appear unto My people in the flesh.

Ether 1

83 And He ministered unto him, even as He ministered unto the Nephites;

And all this that this man knew that He was God, because of the many great works which the Lord had showed unto him;

Ether 1

102

And he that **will contend against the word of the Lord**
Let him be accursed;

And he that shall deny these things
Let him be accursed;

For unto them will I show no greater things saith Jesus Christ,

For I Am He which speaketh.

Coincidental?

2 Nephi 12:40

Wo be unto the Gentiles saith the Lord God of Hosts.

For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out Mine arm unto them from day to day

They will deny Me.

(LDS: [2 Nephi 28:32](#))

Ether 1:102

And he that will contend against the word of the Lord, let him be accursed;

And he that shall deny these things let him be accursed;

For unto them will I show no greater things, saith Jesus Christ, For I Am He which speaketh.

(LDS: [Ether 4:8](#))

We Must Understand that God became Jesus.

- God Became (as Jesus) the Infinite Sacrifice for our sin, as only an Infinite Sacrifice could suffice.

Sin

- Our willful sin separated us from God. Even if our will changes, we can not remove our sin. It can only be removed (absorbed) by the blood of Jesus, which means his grace can THEN be applied for those who do all within their power to repent, which is asking forgiveness,

Repentance

- Repentance is more than asking forgiveness from Sin, although it starts there.
- Repentance means to walk no more in our will, but to align our will fully with the Heavenly Father's will.
- Then he promises to Baptize us with Fire and the Holy Ghost.

Salvation.

- If we believe, repent and endure to the end, the Grace of Jesus is applied and our sin removed.
- We become purified and dwell with him again, with perfect memory of good things.
- If our sin is not removed, we have a perfect memory of all our sin forever. This is the definition of Hell.