

Terminological Differences between Mormonism and the Bible

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Mormonism

Atonement of Christ (The)

1. Salvation by grace is universal resurrection. Beyond this, one must earn his or her place in heaven, in one of three different kingdoms.
2. The atonement of Christ took place primarily in the Garden of Gethsemane (*Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.61).
3. Jesus has his part and we have our part. Jesus' role in the LDS plan of salvation is that of a *creditor* (*GP*, pp.62-65).
4. The Work of Christ on the cross was insufficient. Ultimate salvation (exaltation*) comes by obeying various LDS laws and ordinances.

*Exaltation means living as a god in the highest level of the celestial kingdom

Baptism

1. To be valid, a baptism must be performed by a member of LDS priesthood (2 Nephi 9: 23-24).
2. Baptism becomes the gateway to the Celestial kingdom (*Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.116, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.70)

Born again

1. Baptism into the Mormon Church (*Mormon Doctrine*, p.101).
2. Mormonism teaches baptism regeneration: baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation (2 Nephi 9:23, 24).

Church

1. An organization
The LDS Church is "the only true church"
(*Doctrine & Covenants* 1:30, 115:3,4)
2. The true church was taken from the earth until Joseph Smith restored it (*Doctrine & Covenants* 115:3-4, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.133, 136)

Damnation

Any lesser states than becoming a God (exaltation). (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.652)
Not the state of condemnation (everlasting suffering in hell)

Note: The idea is that of damning a stream

Eternal life

1. Means exaltation in the Celestial kingdom: living eternally as God and having ability to bear children in heaven (*Doctrine & Covenants* 131:1-4, 132:19-25, 30, 55, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp.237-238).
Eternal life is reserved for those who achieve the highest level of the Celestial Kingdom. See *Heaven*
2. Eternal life/exaltation is that man merits "by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel" (*Doctrines of Salvation* Vol.1.p.134).

The Bible

Atonement of Christ (The)

1. Salvation means eternal life. The Bible mentions only two destinies after death: eternal life or everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:31-46).
2. The atonement of Christ took place only on the cross.
3. Jesus became our *substitute* to pay for our sins. Salvation from beginning to end is of God and from God.
4. The Work of Christ is complete for the believers through grace of God alone.

Baptism

1. Its stress is on believers, not priesthood authority (Acts 2:37-41).
2. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God (1 Peter 3:21).

Born again "Born from above" is more accurate translation than "born again"

1. New birth: inner re-creating of fallen human nature by the Holy Spirit. (Combine John 3:3-5 with Ezekiel 36:25-27)
2. Christ's blood (not water) cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:17).

Church : The Greek word (ekklesia) means a public assembly of people

1. Born again believers in Christ are the "body of Christ" or the church (Colossians 1:18, 24, 1 Corinthians 12:12-24), not an organization.
2. Jesus promised that he himself would build his church.
Matthew 16:18 "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Damnation

The state of condemnation (everlasting punishment) comes to the wicked and unrepentant.

Matthew 12:41-42
2 Thessalonians 2:12
Revelation 19:2

Eternal life

1. Eternal life is synonymous with being saved (Luke 18:26-27) and entering into the Kingdom of God (Luke 18:24).
2. Eternal life with God is a present condition for believers.
John 6:47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (Note: "hath" is present tense)
2.1. Eternal life is a gift, not to be earned (Ephesians 2:8). Good works follow spiritual birth (Ephesians 2:10, Romans 11:5-6).

Mormonism

Elohim

1. Elohim is the Father, Jesus Christ is Jehovah (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.681)
They are separate and distinct gods.
See *Jehovah*
2. Misuse of Genesis 1:26-27: Elohim here shows a plurality of Gods.

Fall

1. The Fall was a blessing. The Fall was a necessary part of God's plan of salvation (*Gospel Principles*, pp.27-29).
The Fall brought mortality and physical death.
2. Adam was given conflicting commandments and he wisely used his agency to obey God's command to be fruitful and multiply (*Gospel Principles*, pp 27-29 2 *Nephi* 2:22-25, *Moses* 5:10-11)

Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is granted by proper repentance and not ever repeating those sins permanently, then keeping the commandments of God perfectly (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, p200 quoted in *Gospel Principles*, 1997, pp.125-126)
2. If one repeats the sins, then he/she will lose the forgiveness he/she obtained as a result of repentance (*Doctrine & Covenants* 82:7)
3. "Trying is not sufficient!" (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, pp.162-165)

God the Father

1. Not always God.
He was once a man who dwelt on an earth and progressed to godhood (*Teachings of The Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp 345-346, *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, pp.129-132, *Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.279).
2. One of many gods
(*Doctrine & Covenants* 121:32, 132:18-20,21, *The Book of Abraham* 4:3) He has a father, grandfather, ad infinitum (*Doctrines & Salvation* 2:47, *Teachings of The Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.373)
He is married. There is mother in heaven (*Achieving a Celestial Marriage* p.1, p.129, *Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.9).
3. He has a *body of flesh and bones*, as tangible as man's (*Doctrine & Covenants* 130:22, *Gospel Principles*, p.6, *Teachings of The Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp.345-347)
4. The Mormon God the Father Jesus Christ and Holy Ghost are *not omnipresent* personally (*Doctrines of the Gospel*, p.8, p.11, *Mormon Doctrine* p.752)

Gospel (The)

All the teachings, laws, and ordinances of the LDS Church (*Mormon Doctrine*, p.331).

Grace

1. Grace is God's enabling power that allows people to "lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own efforts" (*LDS Bible Dictionary* p.697).
See 2 *Nephi* 25:23
2. "Grace is granted to men proportionately as they conform to the standards of personal righteousness." (*Mormon Doctrine* p.339)

The Bible

Elohim : Elohim literally means "Strong One"

1. Jehovah and Elohim refer to the same God.
Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."
Note: Here the Hebrew word for "LORD" is Jehovah and the Hebrew word for "God" is Elohim.
2. The Hebrew word for God in Genesis 1:26-27 has a plural ending. But it shows a "plurality of majesty."

Fall

1. The Fall brought a curse on the entire human race: death (*Romans* 5:12).
2. God tempts no one (*James* 1:13-14).

Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is given on the basis of God's grace, not one's performance (*Ephesians* 2:7-8).
2. God has promised to forgive our sins when we turn to him (*1 John* 1:9).
3. When God forgive our sins, he does not expect us to pay him back.
"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (*Hebrews* 10:17).

God the Father

1. Eternally God (*Psalms* 90:2).
"For I am the Lord I change not" (*Malachi* 3:6)
2. No other gods.
(*Deuteronomy* 6:4, *Isaiah* 43:10-11,44:6)
Note: Mankind may worship some beings as if they were real deities (*1 Corinthians* 8:4-6), but the Bible is adamant that there is only one true living God.
Isaiah 43:10-11 "Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."
3. He is *Spirit* (*John* 4:24). He is invisible (*1 Timothy* 1:17, 6:15-16).
Luke 24:39 "A spirit hath not flesh and bones."
4. God the Father Jesus Christ and Holy Ghost are all-powerful (*omnipotent*) (*Luke* 1:37, *Rev.* 19:6), all-knowing (*omniscient*) (*Isaiah* 40:28, *1 John* 3:20) and, everywhere present (*omnipresent*) (*Psalms* 139:7-12, *Jeremiah* 23:23-24).

Gospel (The)

Message of death of Jesus and bodily resurrection for forgiveness of sins (*1 Corinthians* 15:1-5).

Grace

1. Grace is a gift, which is not earned or deserved (*Ephesians* 2:8-9).
2. "Moreover, the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (*Romans* 5:20)

Heaven

1. Divided into three degrees of glory: the Celestial Kingdom (for faithful Mormons), the Terrestrial Kingdom (for good, honourable people) and Telestial Kingdom (for the wicked of the world).

1.1. Misuse of 1 Corinthians 15: 40 and 2 Cor. 12: 2
Almost every person will be resurrected to one of those kingdoms (*Doctrine & Covenants* 76:39, 44, 50-112).

1.2 God the Father dwells in the Celestial kingdom. The Celestial Kingdom is also divided into three. The highest level is exaltation /becoming gods.

2. Distinguished from paradise.

See *paradise*

Hell

1. Hell is the *temporal* abode in the spirit prison for wicked spirits before Judgement day. (LDS *Bible Dictionary*, p.700, *Doctrine & Covenants Student Manual*, p.165)

1.1. Hell will have an end. After the resurrection the majority will go to the Telestial kingdom. See *Heaven*

2. After the resurrection, the devil, his angels and sons of perdition will go into outer darkness. (LDS *Bible Dictionary*, p.700, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles*, p.66)

3. Hell is **people's experience**, in lower kingdoms of heaven, of regret at failing to enter the celestial kingdom. (*Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ and His Apostles*, p.66)

Holy Ghost (The)

1. The third member of the Godhead, a personage of the Spirit, Separate being from the Father and the Son. The Holy Ghost does not possess a body and flesh like the Father and the Son (*Doctrine & Covenants* 130:21-22).

2. The Holy Ghost is different from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God is a universe filling influence from God. The Holy Ghost is he, but the Holy Ghost is it, impersonal (*Doctrines & Salvation* Vol.1 pp.39-51, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp, 752-753) See *Trinity (The)*

Immortality

Immortality is not the same as eternal life.

To live forever in the resurrected state in one of kingdoms of heaven (*Mormon Doctrine*, p.237, pp376-377, *Doctrine & Covenants* 14:7, 29:42-43). See eternal life

Jehovah

"Jesus is Jehovah. He was God of the O T" (*The Life & Teachings of Jesus Christ & His Apostles*, p. 21). See *Elohim*

Heaven

1. One of only two places after death: eternal life or hell. (Matthew 25: 31-46)

1.1

1 Cor. 15:40-41 Paul was talking about the heavenly body as opposed to the earthly body. The passage does not mention "telestial." Only words, "terrestrial" and "celestial" are mentioned.

2 Cor. 12: 2 The Bible speaks of the atmospheric heaven (Deut.11:11), the starry heaven (Gen.1:14) and the highest heaven - God's dwelling place where believers go upon death (Isa.63:15). Paul here talks about the highest heaven.

1.2. God is physically present in heaven (Rev 7:9,10)

Hell

1. Hell is the destination of those who pass under God's judgement. Hell is described as everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41), as "fire and brimstone" (Revelation 21:5), as "the bottomless pit" (Rev. 9:1-2), and a place which is characterised by "wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt.13: 42).

1.1. The Bible does not speak about people leaving hell (Matt. 13: 24-43, Luke 16:26, Revelation 21:8).

2. The Bible speaks about **two destinies** after death: heaven for the saved and hell for the unsaved. So does the Book of Mormon (*2 Nephi* 28:22, *1 Nephi* 15:35, *Alma* 42:16).

2.1. The unsaved are those who do not have saving faith during their earthly life.

Note: "The unbelieving" are among those who are placed in "the lake which burneth with fire, brimstone which is second death" (Rev.21:8).

2.2. There are **degrees** of punishment in hell (Matthew 10: 5, 11:21-24).

Holy Ghost (The)

1. The third member of the Trinity.

The Holy Ghost is God.

Lying to the Holy Ghost is lying to God (Acts 5:3,4)

2. No distinction between the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit. The same Greek word "pneuma" is translated ghost and spirit in the Kings James Version.

2.1 The Holy Ghost/Spirit is a Person.

The Spirit is called Paraclete, the Comforter (Counselor, Advocate) (John 14).

Immortality

The Bible does not distinguish between immortality and eternal life (2 Timothy 1:10).

Jehovah

1. The name of God is "YHWH" which means "I AM" (Exodus 3:14 – John 8:56).

2. Jesus is both Jehovah and Elohim.

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." See Isaiah 40:3

Mormonism

Jesus Christ

1. Not Always a God, God's first spirit child (*Gospel Principles*, 1997, p.11, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.129) Christ earned his own salvation (*The Life and Teachings of Jesus & His apostles*, p.15),
2. A created being: the spirit brother of Lucifer (*Gospel Principles*, 1997, p.17, *Moses* 5:13).
3. Has a literal father -in the same way we have fathers (*Family Home Evening Manual*, pp125-126, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp.546-547, 742)
4. Jesus is the "Saviour" who conquered physical death for mankind.

Jesus is their creditor (*GP*, 2009, pp.62-65)

Jesus is their example (*The Life and Teachings of Jesus & His Apostles*, p.57)

5. Jesus' blood does not cleanse some serious sins such as murder. Men must have their own blood shed to atone for their sins (*Doctrines of Salvation* vol.1, pp.133-138, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp.92-93)

Kingdom of God (The)

1. The Kingdom of God on the earth is the LDS Church (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.721).
2. It means the Celestial Kingdom.
 - 2.1. Only those who are in the Celestial Kingdom are in God's presence (*Doctrine & Covenants* 76:50-88,131:1-4,132:16-17).

Mortality

Mortality is a positive concept. The procreating of children both spiritually and physically is a very important concept. The Fall made man mortal. God's spirit children need bodies to progress. Mortality includes the ability to have children (*Gospel Principles*, 2009, pp.28-29)

Paradise

Paradise is a temporary abode of righteous spirits before the resurrection of the body (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.699)

- * People can continue progressing to godhood.
- * People can go on mission to spirit prison in order to convert non-Mormons to Mormonism (*Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.242, 243, *Doctrine & Covenants* 138).

Pre-existence

Each one existed as spirit child in heaven with our literal Heavenly Father and mother before born on earth (*Doctrine & Covenants* 93: 29, *Book of Abraham* 3:21-22)

Priesthood

1. Only the Mormon Church has authority to baptise, ordain and act in God's name (*Doctrines & Salvation* Vol.3, pp.80-81)
2. The Mormon Church has the Aaronic priesthood and the Melchizedek priesthood.

The Bible

Jesus Christ

1. Eternally existed as God-no beginning, no end (Micah 5: 2, John 1:1-3, John 8: 58, Rev.22: 13). As God, Christ required no salvation.
2. The Creator of All Things, including spiritual realm (Colossians 1: 16, Ezekiel 28:13-19).
3. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, not by a physical act (Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:34-35).
4. Jesus is our Saviour who did everything necessary for our salvation (Colossians 2:13-14).
Jesus is our substitute (Galatians 3:13)
5. Jesus' blood on the cross cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Kingdom of God (The)

1. The rule of God, the divine kingly authority (Luke 1:33).
The church is a manifestation of the Kingdom of God. See *church*
2. All believers will be part of the Kingdom.
 - 2.1 Those who now accept the offer of the Kingdom will enter into the future Kingdom (Matthew 13:41-43)
 - 2.2 All redeemed will be in God's presence (Revelation 21:1-3).

Mortality

Mortality is a theological concept, not a biological one. Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death."
See Romans 5: 12

Paradise: Paradise is word borrowed from ancient Persia, which means "walled garden"

In the NT the word paradise is used only three times to show:

- 1). The place of blessedness Jesus promised to the thief (Luke 24: 43).
- 2). The third heaven (2 Cor.12: 4)
- 3). The location of the promised tree of life (Rev. 2: 7).

Pre-existence

1. Only Christ existed before incarnation. (John 8: 58, Colossians 1:17).
2. Our existence started on earth.
1 Cor.15: 46 "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural, and afterward that is spiritual."
See Zechariah 12: 1

Priesthood

1. All believers have the authority (John 1:12) and correct priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10).
 - 1.1. Christ brought end to the Aaronic priesthood (Hebrews 7:11, 12). The Aaronic priesthood of the OT is restricted to the lineage of Aaron (Heb.7:14).
 2. Jesus Christ is the only High Priest "after the manner of Melchizedek." (Heb 5:9,10,16,24)

Redemption

Christ's death redeems us from mortal death only, not from spiritual death (*Doctrines & Salvation*, Vol1.p.10, *Second Article of Faith*)

Repentance

1. Repentance is not just turning from sin to Christ, but includes living by a long process of proper repentance.

2. To obtain forgiveness, there are nine steps of repentance to be taken:

1). Sincere sorrow for our sins

2). Abandonment of sin

3). Confession of sin

4). Restitution for sin

5). Forgiving others

6). Obedience to the commandments of God

7). Spending the balance of our lives trying to live the commandments of God.

1-7 (*Gospel Principles*, pp.123-126)

8). There will be no repentance without punishment (*Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual*, p.224)

9). Never have desire to recommit the sins.

(*Uniform System for Teaching the Gospel*, pp.2-14)

Salvation

1. This could refer to

1.1. Unconditional/general salvation: Immortality or resurrection OR

1.2. Exaltation/eternal life/living as God

Exaltation is earned by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel (*Third Articles of Faith*).

2. Salvation by grace means universal salvation. Christ's death paid for Adam's transgression and secured universal resurrection.

2 **Nephi 25: 23** "We are saved by grace after all we can do." See *grace, eternal life*

Satan

One of the Heavenly Father's spirit children. Brother of Jesus and all people begotten in pre-existence (*Gospel Principles*, 1997,pp17-18). See *pre-existence*

Scripture

1. Four canonised writings ("Standard Works"): The Book of Mormon, The Doctrine & Covenants, The Pearl & Great Price, and the King James Version of the Holy Bible, and the inspired words of the LDS Prophets.

1.1. The Standard works are the "authoritative collection of the sacred books" (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.630).

1.2. The words of the living prophet given at General Conferences are at least considered to be scripture (*Gospel Principles*,2009, p.48, *Teachings of The Living Prophets*, p.21, *Doctrine & Covenant Student Manual*, p.144)

2. The Bible is mistranslated and incomplete (*Eighth Articles of Faith*, 2 *Nephi*29:3,6, 1 *Nephi* 13:26)

3. New revelations can be added to the collection of scripture (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p.631, *Ninth Article of Faith*).

Redemption

1. Christ's death redeemed us from both mortal and spiritual death.

1.1. We were redeemed from the wages of our sin and the curse of the law (Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-7, Galatians 3:13)

Galatians 4: 4 "redeem those who were under the law"

Repentance

1. A complete change of the basic motivation and direction of our lives.

2. Repentance means to change our mind about Christ (Acts 16: 3). As a result we are to have a changed way of living in this earthly life.

Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

Salvation

1. Salvation is eternal life. Salvation is based on each individual's response to God's free gift of eternal life through Christ.

2. Salvation is based only upon God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16)

John 6: 47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Note: LDS Bible Dictionary has a footnote; everlasting life is eternal life.

Satan

A fallen angel who rebelled against God (Isaiah 14).

Scripture

1. The sixty six canonised books of the Bible

1.1. Not as an "authoritative collection of Books" but as a "collection of authoritative Books" (Bruce Metzger).

2. The Bible is complete and trustworthy.

Isaiah 40:8 "The Word of God shall stand forever."

See 1 Peter 1:23-25, Matthew 24:35

3. Canon is closed

The finality of the revelation through Christ (Heb.1:1-2).

Mormonism

Sin

1. Specific wrong deeds, not man's basic nature.
2. One must have a conscience before he/she can violate it (*The Life and Teachings of Jesus & His Apostles*, p.410).

Sons of God (The)

All of us are literally spirit children of the Heavenly Father and his wife, born in a pre-existence before born on earth (*Mormon Doctrine*, p.589) See *Pre-existence*

Trinity (The)

1. Mormons say that they believe in the Trinitarian concept of God. This means that the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are three separate gods, they are "one in purpose."
 - 1.1. Misuse of Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 82:1,6, John 10:34
 - 1.2. Mormons may understand the Trinity in terms of Monophysitism* and Modalism**.
*Monophysitism holds that the incarnate Christ had only a single, divine nature, clad in human flesh.
**Modalism holds that the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are identical – they are successive revelations of the same person.
2. There are numerous gods beside these three (*Abraham* 4: 27, *Doctrine & Covenants* 132:37).
 - 2.1 Misuse of 1 Corinthians 8: 4-6

Temple

1. Not a place of a corporate worship, but that of individual "sacred works" such as (1). Baptism for the dead, (2). Endowments and (3). Celestial marriage.

Faithful Mormons can become gods through these rituals (*Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, p.4).

2. Marriage performed in the Mormon temples last forever. They are sealed for time and eternity (*Doctrines & Salvation*, 2:43-44, 60).

Virgin birth

The body of Jesus was begotten as a result of a physical relationship between the Father and Mary (*Family Home Evening Manual*, pp125-126)
Note: The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's.

The Bible

Sin

1. Sin is an attitude of rebellion against God. We were dead in sin and by nature objects of wrath (Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 2:13).
2. Sin is sin regardless of a person's awareness (Psalm 19:12).
Psalm 19:12 "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults".

Sons of God (The)

We are God's creation, not procreation. We become adopted children of God at conversion (Romans 8: 14-15)
Galatians 3:26 "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus". See John 1:12

Trinity (The)

1. There is only one God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Ghost), and each is a distinct Person. They are coequal and co eternal.
Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O, Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD."

*Jesus' final commission to the disciples was a Trinitarian formula (Matt.28:19).

* Paul's Trinitarian benediction (2 Cor.13:14)

2. The Bible teaches only One God from Genesis to Revelation.

Isaiah 43:10 "Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me"
See Isaiah 44:6,8,44:6,45:5,46:9

- 2.1. 1 Cor.8: 4-6 Read the passage in its context. There are many pagan idols but to us there is One God.

Temple

1. In the OT the temple was to teach the need for atonement of sins as a requirement prior to and for authentic worship of one true God (2 Chronicles 2:6).
 - 1.1. The temple was a shadow of the true dwelling place of God (Hebrews 9).
 - 1.2. Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross made the temple system obsolete.
The rending of the veil signified the end of the temple worship (Matthew 27:51).
2. No marriage in heaven
Resurrected saints will be like angels. They will not marry and not produce children (Matthew 22:30).

Virgin birth

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 1:18-20)
Even the Book of Mormon, Alma 7:10 says that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost.
Note: The Bible declares God to be spirit (John 4:24).