

Who Are You Going To Believe? Joseph Smith?

Denominations that base their beliefs on the teachings of Joseph Smith

In 1842 Josiah Quincey wrote: "It is by no means improbable that some future text book for the use of generations yet unborn will contain a question something like this: 'What historical American of the nineteenth century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen?' And it is by no means impossible that the answer to this interrogatory may be thus written: 'Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet!'"

In vols.1-3 1840-1842, Times and Seasons, March 1, 1842 was published the famous letter written by the Prophet Joseph Smith to Mr. John Wentworth which contains the following; "...when about fourteen years of age, I went to one society they referred me to one plan, and another and another: each one pointing to his own particular creed as the *sun nun bonum* of perfection. **Considering that all could not be right, and that God could not be the author of so much confusion, I determined to investigate the subject more fully, believing that if God had a church it would not be split into factions,** and that if He taught one society to worship one way, and administer in one set of ordinances, He would not teach another principle which was diametrically opposed..." (emphasis added)

Joseph again stated, "***I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.***" (7)

So using Joseph's own statement let's see what happened with the church he organized. Joseph claimed numerous heavenly visitations and revelations, and on April 6, 1830 he and a handful of believers, organized the **Church of Christ**. The name of the church was changed in 1834 to **The Church of Latter Day Saints**, and finally in 1838 to **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**. If the name of the church was received by revelation as claimed, there should only be one version of it.

Below is a list of *known fractions* from the church organized by Joseph Smith.

1830-1850's Churches and individuals.

<i>Pure Church of Christ (Wyman Clark)</i>	1831
<i>John Noah</i>	1831
<i>The Independent Church</i>	1832
<i>Church of Christ (Ezra Booth)</i>	1836
<i>Church of Christ (Warren Parrish)</i>	1837
<i>Isaac Russell</i>	1838
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ, the Bride, The Lamb's Wife (Hinkle)</i>	1840
<i>Oliver Olney</i>	1842
<i>Church of Christ (Hyrum Page)</i>	1842
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (F. G. Bishop)</i>	1842?
<i>True Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Law, Foster, Higbee)</i>	1844
<i>Church of Christ (Chubby)</i>	1840's
<i>Church of Christ/Church of Jesus Christ of the Children of Zion (Sidney Rigdon)</i>	1844
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Emmett)</i>	1844?
<i>John E. Page</i>	1844

<i>Church of Christ (Stoddard, Rich, Bump)</i>	1845
<i>Indian Mormon</i>	1846
<i>Church of Christ (W. McLellin, D. Whitmer)</i>	1847
<i>*Church of Christ (D. Whitmer)</i>	1875
<i>Samuel James, George M. Hinkle</i>	1847
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (William Smith)</i>	1847
<i>Congregation of Jehovah's Presbytery of Zion (Thompson)</i>	1848
<i>Church of Christ (Brewster)</i>	1848
<i>Lorenzo D. Oatman</i>	1848
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Wright)</i>	1849
<i>Austin Cowles</i>	1849
<i>Samuel C. Brown</i>	1849
<i>Elijah Schwackhammer</i>	1849
<i>The Bride, The Lamb's Wife or Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Syfritt)</i>	1850
<i>Moses R. Norris</i>	1851
<i>Church of Christ (Aldrich)</i>	1851
<i>George Hickenlooper</i>	1854
<i>Church of Christ (Brooks)</i>	1850's
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strang)</i>	1844
<i>Reuben Miller</i>	1846
<i>Church of Christ (Aaron Smith)</i>	1846
<i>Increase M. VanDeusen</i>	1847
<i>Church of the Messiah (Adams)</i>	1861
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strangite)(Albert Norman Ketchum)</i>	1924
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strangite) (Drew)</i>	1952
<i>Holy Church of Jesus Christ (Caffiaux)</i>	1964
<i>House of Ephraim and House of Manasseh of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Sheppard)</i>	1970
<i>The True Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Roberts)</i>	1974
<i>Marriage Counseling Group</i>	1978
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Hajicek)</i>	?
<i>Strangite Believers in Pennsylvania</i>	?
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Brigham Young)</i>	1847
<i>George Miller</i>	1847
<i>Arnold Potter</i>	1850
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Gibson)</i>	1861
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or Church of the First Born (Morris)</i>	1861
<i>The Prophet Cainen or Church of Jesus Christ of the Most High God (Williams)</i>	1862
<i>Morrisite Group (Livingston)</i>	1864
<i>William Davis</i>	1861
<i>Church of Zion (Godbe)</i>	1868
<i>Church of the First Born (Dove)</i>	1874
<i>Barnet Moses Giles</i>	1875
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints of the Most High God (Guhl)</i>	1870's
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints of the Most High God (James)</i>	1884
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints of the Most High God (Thompson)</i>	1888
<i>Priesthood Groups (Fundamentalists)</i>	1890
<i>James Brighthouse</i>	1887
<i>John Koyle</i>	1894
<i>Church of the First Born (Israel Dennis)</i>	1895
<i>Josiah Hickman</i>	1900

<i>Lars Peterson</i>	1900
<i>Nathaniel Baldwin</i>	1903
<i>Samuel Eastman</i>	1904
<i>John Tanner Clark</i>	1905
<i>Hannah Sorenson</i>	1906
<i>United Order of Equality (Peterson)</i>	1909
<i>Moses Gudmendsen</i>	1918
<i>Paul Feil</i>	1928
<i>LDS Depression Movement</i>	1930
<i>Davis County Co-op Society (Kingston)</i>	1935
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Third Convention (Paez)</i>	1936
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of Israel (Sherwood)</i>	1936
<i>Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints (Margarito Bautista)</i>	1936
<i>Benjamin T. LaBaron</i>	1938
<i>Order of Aaron (Glendinning)</i>	1943
<i>Church of Freedom of Latter Day Saints</i>	1950's
<i>Zion's Order of the Sons of Levi (Kilgore)</i>	1951
<i>Annalee Skarin</i>	1952
<i>The Church of the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Joel F. LeBaron)</i>	1955
<i>The Church of the Firstborn (Ross W. LeBaron)</i>	1955
<i>United Outcasts of Israel, American Indian Restoration Enterprises, Praetorian Press (Pratt)</i>	1958
<i>Perfected Church of Jesus Christ of Immaculate Latter Day Saints (Conway)</i>	1958
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Forsgren)</i>	1960
<i>Paul Solem</i>	1960
<i>Church of Jesus Christ (Goldman)</i>	1960's
<i>Divine Word Foundation (Hans N. VonKorber)</i>	1965
<i>Bruce David Longo</i>	1965
<i>LDS Scripture Researchers/Believe God Society (Lloyd)</i>	1965
<i>The Church of the Body and of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Powers)</i>	1965
<i>United Order of the Saints of Guadeloupe (Gamiette)</i>	1966
<i>United Order of the Family of Christ (Desmond)</i>	1966
<i>Split from Zion's Order of the Sons of Levi (Taylor)</i>	1969
<i>Homosexual Church of Jesus Christ, Denver, Colorado</i>	1972
<i>Latter Day Saints Church (Park)</i>	1972
<i>The Church of the Lamb of God (Ervil M. LaBaron)</i>	1972
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Krupenia)</i>	1972
<i>The New Jerusalem Group (Kathryn Carter)</i>	1972
<i>The Watchmen on the Towers of Latter Day Israel (Braun)</i>	1973
<i>Monte Scovill</i>	1973
<i>Church of Jesus Christ in Solemn Assembly (Alexander Joseph)</i>	1974
<i>Evangelical Church of Christ, Church of the New Covenant in Christ (Bryant)</i>	1974
<i>Split from Zion's Order of the Sons of Levi (Kilgore)</i>	1975
<i>Affirmation</i>	1975
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Simons)</i>	1975
<i>Church of the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Wakeham)</i>	1975
<i>Church of the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Alma LeBaron)</i>	1976
<i>Aaronic Order Break-off</i>	1977
<i>Christ's Church, Inc. (Peterson)</i>	1978
<i>Church of Jesus Christ (Bulla)</i>	1978
<i>The Restorers or School of the Prophets (Crossfield)</i>	1979

<i>Zion's First International Church (LeeAnn Walker)</i>	1980
<i>The Free Will Mormon Church (Coleman)</i>	1980
<i>Aryan Christian Church (Hayden, Idaho)</i>	1980
<i>Church of Jesus Christ (Mora)</i>	1981
<i>Sons Ahman Israel (David Israel)</i>	1981
<i>Samoan LDS Church, New Zealand</i>	1981
<i>The Millennial Church of Jesus Christ (Evoniuk)</i>	1981
<i>Peyote Way Church of God (Trujillo)</i>	1981?
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints in Zion (Thackston)</i>	1982
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ of the Saints in Zion (Asay)</i>	1984
<i>Break from the Church of Jesus Christ in Solemn Assembly</i>	1984
<i>The Company or The Sisterhood (Arvin Shreeve)</i>	1984
<i>Lafferty Group (Ron and Dan Lafferty)</i>	1984
<i>Work of Better Truth (Peterson)</i>	1984
<i>Gilbert Jordan</i>	1985
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of All Latter-day Saints or Restoration Church of Jesus Christ (Feliz)</i>	1985
<i>Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints (Madison)</i>	1985
<i>Church of Christ the Firstborn of the Fulness of Times (Widmar)</i>	1985
<i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Fundamentalists (Wright Family)</i>	1985?
<i>School of the Prophets (Archie Dean Wood)</i>	1986
<i>Mormon Fundamentalists, England (Munn)</i>	1986?
<i>The Ensign Corporation (Miller)</i>	1986
<i>Church of Jesus Christ Omnipotent</i>	1987
<i>Community of Zion, Central Utah Division (Miner)</i>	?
<i>LeRoy Wilson</i>	?
<i>Alonzo Langford</i>	?
<i>Church of the First Born, General Assembly</i>	?
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ (Cutler)</i>	1953
<i>Church of Jesus Christ (Fletcher)</i>	1953
<i>The Restored Church of Jesus Christ (Walton)</i>	1979
<i>The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</i>	1851
<i>Henry Harrison Deam</i>	1854
<i>The Church of Christ, the Order of Zion (Zahnd)</i>	1918
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ (Williams)</i>	1925
<i>World Redemption (Fuller)</i>	1969
<i>Church of Jesus Christ Restored (King)</i>	1970
<i>Loyal Opposition (Liggett)</i>	1970
<i>New Jerusalem Church of Jesus Christ (Fuller)</i>	1976
<i>Church of Christ Restored (Fishel)</i>	1976
<i>True Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Toney)</i>	1980
<i>Church of the Restoration or Churches of Christ in Zion (Chambers)</i>	1981
<i>Joseph T. Long</i>	1983
<i>Lamanite Ministries for Christ or New Covenant Ministries for Christ</i>	1984
<i>Restoration Branches Movement</i>	1984
<i>Church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (Abramson)</i>	1985
<i>Church of Jesus Christ, Zion's Branch (Cato)</i>	1986
<i>Church of Christ (Clark)</i>	1986
<i>Independent Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Warren)</i>	1986
<i>Native Indian Church</i>	?
<i>The Church of Jesus Christ (Bickerton)</i>	1862

<i>George Barnes</i>	1873
<i>Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ (Wright)</i>	1907
<i>Primitive Church of Jesus Christ (Caldwell)</i>	1914
<i>Church of Christ (Temple Lot) (Hedrick)</i>	1863
<i>Church of Christ, Independent, Informal, (Wipper)</i>	1927
<i>The Church of Christ (Fetting)</i>	1929
<i>Church of Christ (Ely)</i>	1929
<i>Church of Christ (Humphrey)</i>	1929
<i>Church of Christ (Trapp)</i>	1930
<i>Church of Christ (Restored) (DeWolf)</i>	1936
<i>Church of Christ (E.E. Long and Nerren)</i>	1936
<i>Church of Christ (Hilgendorf)</i>	1942
<i>The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message (Draves)</i>	1946
<i>Floyd Denham Group</i>	?
<i>Church of Christ (Pauline Hancock)</i>	1946
<i>Antarctica Development Interests or the New American's Mount Zion (Leabo)</i>	1955
<i>Church of Christ (E.E. Long)</i>	1960
<i>Church of Christ (Leighton-Floyd, Burt)</i>	1965
<i>Church of Christ at Zion's Retreat (Hall)</i>	1973
<i>The Church of Israel (Gayman)</i>	1973
<i>Stephen Brown</i>	1979
<i>Break from the Church of Christ (Hancock) (in Michigan)</i>	1973
<i>Church of Christ With the Elijah Message (Rogers)</i>	1975
<i>The Church of Christ, Restored Gospel</i>	1929
<i>Then reorganized again in</i>	1985
<i>The True and Living Church of Jesus Christ of Saint of the Last Days (James Harmston)</i>	1994
<i>Fraternity of Preparation</i>	?

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(6)

To summarize, the above list contains 220 churches, individuals or organizations that base their beliefs on the teachings of Joseph Smith. I'm sure there are many others that we don't know about or that don't want to be known for one reason or another. 220 in 174 years, (2004) that should be a record of some sort!

In a recent interview with one of the latest "new prophets," Archie (Azreal) Dean Wood, revealed the same attitudes toward Christianity still exist. Archie remarked to Jim Spencer and Jim Close, that he, Archie, "...hate(s) established Christianity...and I disagree 100% with the great basic premises of Christianity. I reject categorically that humans are born evil. God finds that heinous...The atonement for Original Sin is silly twat. The best concept of God that you (Christians) could come up with was some Cosmic Monster who designed a hell wherein all those who don't profess the name of Christ are going to burn for all eternity; and His concept of love is demanding a human sacrifice, i.e. the Crucifixion of Christ, to appease His sense of justice. If that's your God, I want you to know, my friend, I am His implacable enemy—I will never bend my knee to that monster!" (1)

Joseph Smith said, "I was answered that I must join none of them, for that were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors (believers) were all corrupt..." (2)

John Taylor, third President of the Church, said, "We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense. ...and the Devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century." (3)

Brigham Young seconded John Taylor's statement, "Brother Taylor has just said that the religions of the day were hatched in hell, the eggs were laid in hell, hatched on its borders, and then kicked onto the earth." (4)

Again Joseph Smith: "Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God! I say that is a strange God anyhow—three in one, and one in three! It is a curious organization. All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God—he would be a giant or a monster." (5)

The legacy of Joseph Smith lives on in his teachings and doctrines that destroy and deceive people. Unlike Christians, none of these Mormon splinter groups will have anything to do with each other, because each claims to be "***The only true church.***" *Each member of each group claims to have a testimony of the truthfulness of that particular group.* All can't be right. And none can be right when they all deny the Deity of Jesus Christ, the Jesus Christ of the Bible, deny salvation by grace through faith, deny the infallibility of God's Word the Bible, etc.,etc. "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." (Jer. 17:5.)

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.” (Ps. 118:8.)

The Biblical Church is not an organization operated by man, but the body of believers, trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Here’s a short definition:

**The Church is never a place,
but always a people;
never a fold,
but always a flock;
never a sacred building,
but always a believing assembly.
The Church is you who pray,
not where you pray.
A building can no more be a Church than
your clothes of satin or cotton can be you.
God does not live in buildings.
He lives in the bodies of born-again believers.
The Church is not where we meet,
but the Church is who we are.
The Church is a mighty, militant army
designed to counter Satan’s work,
and to establish the Kingdom of God
in the lives of people and
in their communities.
Find your place in the Body.
Every ministry needs support and help.**

“...they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*” Acts 17:11

Footnotes:

- (1) Through the Maze, #17 1987 by James Spencer, Idaho Falls, Idaho
- (2) Pearl of Great Price, writings of Joseph Smith Ch 2:19
- (3) Journal of Discourses Vol. 6, p.167
- (4) Journal or Discourses Vol.6, p.176
- (5) History of the Church Vol. 6,p.476
- (6) Divergent Paths of the Restoration Steven L. Shields 1982 ed. 1990 ed.
El Segundo, Ca.
- (7) History of the Church Vol. 6,pp.408,409
?= Exact date not known

