

ALTERNATIVES TO CHRISTIANITY

Mormonism Fast Facts

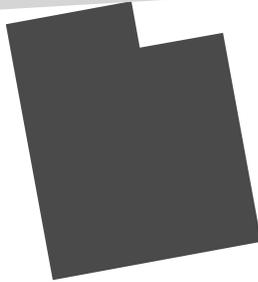
History

Mormonism is a lot younger than any of the other religions that we've looked at, starting in the early 1800's. The Book of Mormon was discovered in 1827.



Primary Location

Mormonism is increasingly becoming a world religion, but is still primarily found in the United States. Founded in New York in the early 1800's, Mormons continued to move West until they settled in what is now the state of Utah, where the headquarters of the largest Mormon sect is found.



Population

 = 1 million Mormons



There are over 15 million Mormons in the world today, up from 1 million in 1947 and 6 in the early 1990's. Of those 15 million, over 9 million live in North America.

Holy Books

Unlike Christianity, Mormons believe in "continuing revelation," meaning that they are open to the fact that another book of the Bible could get written today.

With that in mind, Mormons believe that the Bible is authoritative (but that it's been corrupted when it doesn't agree with the Book of Mormon).

In addition to the Bible, Mormons believe that the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Doctrines & Covenants are authoritative and inspired by God. These books are sent to correct the places where the church has gone wrong.



God

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The Mormon view of God is very different than the Christian view of God. First, they think that God has a body. Second, they think that God didn't always used to be god. He started out as a human and eventually worked his way to become one. Mormons believe the same thing about Jesus too. He started off a spirit, became a human, and worked his way to become God.

Human Condition

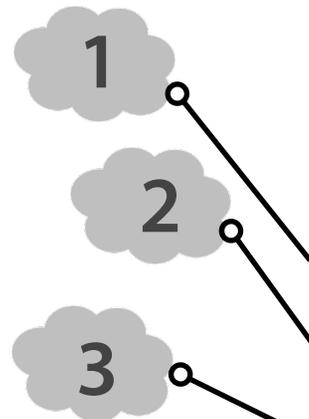
Mormons believe that all humans existed as spirits before they were born. When they are born, they are innocent and have the chance to work their way to become a god just like God did. If you work hard enough by following all the right rules, you'll eventually be exalted to god-status and you will get your own planet that you get to rule over. The process continues over and over and over again.



Salvation

Mormons essentially believe that everyone will be saved—just to different afterlives. Jesus' death has guaranteed this salvation to immortality—the immortality that you receive depends on your own work.

Afterlife



Mormons believe that the vast majority of humanity will be granted immortality. (You have to be really wicked to end up in their equivalent of Hell.) Everyone will end up in 1 of 3 heavens.

Celestial Heaven: This is the best heaven, reserved for the few Mormons who have worked their way to this heaven.

Terrestrial Heaven: This is the heaven where good people go who aren't Mormons.

Telestial Heaven: This is the place where people who reject the Mormon teaching and are wicked end up. (It's still considered to be far better than life on earth.)