

Mormonism Bibliography: Introductory Works

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A.Primary Sources: LDS Scriptures

(online, <http://scriptures.lds.org/en/contents>)

The Book of Mormon. Alleged collection of ancient writings primarily by Nephites, descendants of Jews who had emigrated to the Western Hemisphere six hundred years before Christ.

Doctrine & Covenants. Collection of prophetic messages, mostly from Joseph Smith.

Pearl of Great Price. Other writings that Joseph Smith purported to translate, along with his story of seeing God and Christ when he was a boy.

B.Primary sources: Other official/quasi-official LDS works

1. Books

Gospel Principles. Constantly reprinted primer in LDS doctrine, now in its fourteenth edition, this is the closest thing to an official doctrinal manual for the LDS Church. Online, <http://www.lds.org/library/display/0,4945,11-1-13-1,00.html>.

“Preach My Gospel”: *A Guide to Missionary Service*. Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004. Official manual for use by LDS missionaries in the field.

Roberts, B. H., ed. *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. 7 Vols. Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1978. More or less official LDS history.

Smith, Joseph Fielding, comp. *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*. Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1938. Sermons and discourses not included in D&C.

2. Periodicals

Ensign. Monthly magazine with sermons, doctrinal lessons, testimonies, and the like. Online, <http://tinyurl.com/2dqq7v>.

Liahona. Monthly magazine with much of the same content as *Ensign*, translated into various other languages.

3. Web sites

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. <http://www.lds.org>. Directed primarily to LDS.

Mormon.org. <http://www.mormon.org>. Directed primarily to non-LDS.

C.Secondary Sources: LDS

1. Books

- Bushman, Richard Lyman. *Mormonism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. A short but sophisticated introduction by a leading LDS historian.
- Ludlow, Daniel H., ed. *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. 4 Vols. New York: Macmillan, 1992. Standard reference work reflecting a conservative, BYU scholarship. Online, <http://www.lib.byu.edu/Macmillan/>.
- McConkie, Bruce M. *Mormon Doctrine*. 2d ed. Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1966. Controversial A-to-Z theological dictionary by an influential LDS apostle and teacher, expressing in sometimes embarrassingly clear terms the unorthodox teachings of the LDS Church.
- Millet, Robert L. *A Different Jesus? The Christ of the Latter-day Saints*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. Millet, arguably the most influential LDS apologist and scholar today, argues that Mormons genuinely believe in Jesus Christ. The publication of this book by a Christian publishing house, with a foreword and afterword by Richard Mouw (president of Fuller Theological Seminary), caused a stir within evangelical circles.
- Newell, Coke. *Latter Days: An Insider's Guide to Mormonism, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. New York: St. Martin's, 2000; St. Martin's Griffin, 2001. Readable, frank, and even entertaining account of LDS beliefs and history.
- Palmer, Grant H. *An Insider's View of Mormon Origins*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2002. Liberal LDS scholar offers one of the best critiques of traditional LDS claims.
- Peterson, Daniel C., and Stephen D. Ricks. *Offenders for a Word: How Anti-Mormons Play Word Games to Attack the Latter-day Saints*. Salt Lake City: Aspen Books, 1992. Forceful polemic emphasizing the heated rhetoric that often characterizes evangelical literature on Mormonism.
- Riess, Jana, and Christopher Kimball Biegelow. *Mormonism for Dummies*. Indianapolis: Wiley, 2005. Two LDS writers offer a user-friendly introduction.
- Robinson, Stephen E. *Are Mormons Christians?* Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998. LDS New Testament scholar genially answers in the affirmative.
- Williams, Drew. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Mormonism*. New York: Alpha Books, 2003. BYU graduate offers a doctrinally oriented introduction.

2. Periodicals

- Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. Online, <http://www.dialoguejournal.com/>. Scholarly periodical with articles generally of a liberal or skeptical perspective with regard to Mormonism; most articles available free online.
- The FARMS Review*. Previously known as *The FARMS Review of Books*. Online, <http://farms.byu.edu/publications/review/>. Mostly reviews of books pertaining to the Book of Mormon or other LDS scriptures.
- Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*. Online, <http://farms.byu.edu/publications/jbms/>. Conservative LDS academics defend the Book of Mormon.

Sunstone. Publishes a mix of fiction, poetry, and scholarly articles that are liberal or not “faith promoting” concerning LDS culture, scriptures, and claims.

3. Web sites

About Mormons. <http://www.lightplanet.com/mormons/>. Purports to be the most comprehensive web site on Mormonism, with thousands of pages of material.

All About Mormons. <http://mormonism.us/>. Web site of LDS scholar W. J. Walsh, featuring responses to criticisms of the LDS Church and an A-to-Z index of articles.

FAIR—Foundation for Apologetic Information & Research. <http://www.fairlds.org/>. Perhaps the most popular LDS apologetics web site.

Mormon Fortress. <http://www.mormonfortress.com/>. Web site of Mike Ash (*Shaken Faith Syndrome*) focusing on LDS apologetic resources.

MormonWiki.com. <http://www.mormonwiki.com/>. Free online encyclopedia by and about Mormons, similar to Wikipedia, with 1,641 articles. Not to be confused with the evangelical site MormonWiki.org.

D.Secondary Sources: Non-LDS

1. Books

Abanes, Richard. *Inside Today's Mormonism: Understanding Latter-day Saints in Light of Biblical Truth*. Originally entitled *Becoming Gods: A Closer Look at 21st-Century Mormonism*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2004, 2007. Well-done description and critique of LDS claims and beliefs.

_____. *One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church*. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2002. By far the best critical history of the LDS movement.

Beckwith, Francis J., Carl Mosser, and Paul Owen, eds. *The New Mormon Challenge: Responding to the Latest Defenses of a Fast Growing Movement*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. Essays by evangelical scholars, most of them associated in some way with Biola University, responding to select issues of apologetic significance.

Bowman, Robert M., Jr. “Latter-day Saints.” In *A Guide to New Religious Movements*, ed. Ron Enroth, 78-96. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. Chapter introducing the LDS religion and offering a brief summary and critique of its major doctrines based on the LDS book *Gospel Principles*.

Cares, Mark J. *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons*. 2d ed. WELS Outreach Resources, 1998. Helpful book focusing on understanding and communicating effectively with Mormons.

Farkas, John R., and David A. Reed. *Mormonism: Changes, Contradictions, and Errors*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

Jackson, Andrew. *Mormonism Explained: What Latter-day Saints Teach and Practice*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.

McKeever, Bill, and Eric Johnson. *Mormonism 101: Examining the Religion of the Latter-day Saints*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000. One of the better evangelical introductions.

- Ostling, Richard, and Joan K. Ostling. *Mormon America: The Power and the Promise*. New York: HarperOne, 2000. Journalists offer one of the very best accounts of Mormon institutions and influence in America.
- Reed, David A., and John R. Farkas. *Mormons Answered Verse by Verse*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Rhodes, Ron, and Marian Bodine. *Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1995. Follows helpful approach of listing questions to ask a Mormon.
- Rowe, David L. *I Love Mormons: A New Way to Share Christ with Latter-day Saints*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. Utah-based evangelical pastor and scholar urges evangelicals to adopt a more relational approach to evangelizing Mormons.
- Tanner, Jerald and Sandra. *The Changing World of Mormonism*. Chicago: Moody, 1980. The classic work on which most critics build. Online, <http://www.utlm.org/onlinebooks/changecontents.htm>.
- Van Gorden, Kurt. *Mormonism*. Zondervan Guide to Cults and New Religions. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995. Doctrinal critique.

2. Web sites

- Institute for Religious Research* (Rob Bowman, Joel Groat). <http://www.irr.org/>. Various resources on Mormonism, including a “Gospel Principles Scripture Study Guide” that provides a chapter-by-chapter response to the LDS doctrinal manual. Also features a “Mormons in Transition” program that facilitates mentoring of people coming out of the LDS Church by former Mormons who are now evangelical Christians.
- Mormon Central* (H. Michael Marquardt). <http://www.xmission.com/~research/central/index.htm>. Resources, of a higher caliber than is typical, on the LDS scriptures and related topics.
- The Mormon Curtain*. <http://www.mormoncurtain.com/>. Over three thousand articles representing ex-LDS points of view.
- Mormonism Research Ministry* (Bill McKeever). <http://www.mrm.org/>. A leading evangelical ministry focused exclusively on Mormonism.
- Utah Lighthouse Ministry* (Sandra Tanner). <http://www.utlm.org/>. Arguably the premier evangelical ministry and web site focusing on Mormonism.

E.Secondary Sources: LDS/Non-LDS Discussions

- Blomberg, Craig L., and Stephen E. Robinson. *How Wide the Divide? A Mormon and an Evangelical in Conversation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997. Highly controversial book by an evangelical and an LDS New Testament scholar; in general, Mormons were happy with it, but many evangelicals regarded it as muddying the issues.
- Millet, Robert L., and Gerald R. McDermott. *Claiming Christ: A Mormon—Evangelical Debate*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007. McDermott, who is theologically not quite consistently evangelical, makes all the concessions yet also manages to score some important points.

Millet, Robert L., and Gregory C. V. Johnson. *Bridging the Divide: The Continuing Conversation between a Mormon and an Evangelical*. Foreword by Craig L. Blomberg and Stephen E. Robinson. Rhinebeck, NY: Monkfish Book Publishing, 2007. Johnson makes needless concessions in this report on his friendly public conversations with Millet.