

# Mormonism from a Biblical Perspective

## Examining LDS doctrine and beliefs by searching the Bible

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*All verses quoted from the New King James Bible, unless otherwise noted. Where the full Bible text is not represented, omissions are represented by ellipses (...). Summaries of sections of scripture as well as author additions to the text will be enclosed in brackets [ ].*

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### Genesis, Chapter 9

**1-7 [Noah and his family are commanded to replenish the earth]**

**8-20 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying... neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood... I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.**

God's covenants are always associated with what is referred to here as a token. In Romans 4:11, the author speaks of God's covenant of circumcision as a *sign* and a *seal* of the covenant. A *sign* is meant as an expression or witness of the covenant to God and the outside world. A *seal* is meant as a reminder for the person making the covenant. The closest thing we have to such a token in our society today is a wedding ring which serves as both notification to others or your status as a married person, as well as reminders to ourselves of the commitment we've made. This is the way God describes this token of the rainbow, as a reminder *between me and the earth* of the promise made.

**21-22 And he [Noah] drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.**

LDS doctrine claims that the Bible has been perverted over the thousands of years that it has been handed down from one generation to another. They teach that Satan was actively influencing men to remove key verses, insert heretical passages, and thereby make the Bible unreliable as the word of God. This passage is the first of many that cause me to question why, if what the LDS church teaches is true, weren't passages like these removed? Immediately following the amazing story of this *just, perfect, and favored* man of God, we find him now getting drunk and apparently exposing himself inappropriately in his tent. Noah is certainly not the last man of God that we will hear terrible things about. In relation, Noah's sin seems almost inconsequential compared to later sins of men like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, David, and Solomon, just to name a few. It seems to be important to God that we understand that even these great men of God were not righteous in and of themselves. Their righteousness came from God, just as ours does.

**22-28 [Ham dishonors his father Noah by telling others of Noah's sin rather than helping to cover him. A curse is pronounced on Ham, through his son Canaan, that he would be a servant of his brothers.]**

This cursing of Ham, like the placing of a mark on Cain, is commonly used to infer a cursing of a black skin brought upon a people. Although this teaching has been seen among many of the Abrahamic religions to justify the persecution and slavery of those with dark skin, there is absolutely no Biblical reason to assume that is what this cursing was related to. In fact, Moses himself later gives us reason to think otherwise when, in Numbers 12, he marries an Ethiopian woman who would have been a descendant of

Ham. All of God's previous cursings have related to man's survival on this planet being made more difficult rather than a fundamental change to a person's genetics.

LDS leaders have often referred to those with black skin as "the sons of Ham". There is an LDS doctrine that says that those who come to this earth with black skin were punished because they were less valiant and faithful to God during the pre-existence. "Sons of Ham" were denied full church membership and the ability to hold the Priesthood until 1978. It is only through wild speculation or claimed modern-day revelation that any connection can be made between the cursing of Ham and those with black skin.

**29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.**

## Genesis, Chapter 10

1-32 [The Geneology from Noah until the time of the Tower of Babel]

## Genesis, Chapter 11

1-10 [The people build the Tower of Babel "whose top *may reach* unto heaven." The Lord confuses their speech and they begin to scatter into separate nations.]

10-28 [The geneology of Noah's son Shem through Abram has been omitted]

29-32 ...the name of Abram's wife *was Sarai*... But Sarai was barren; she *had* no child.

There was no greater shame in the Hebrew culture of this time than to be unable to have children. Sarai will later refer to this inability as her "reproach". This must have been a challenge for Abram, too, whose name meant "Exalted Father". It must have been a constant reminder that he would never live up to his name.

## Genesis, Chapter 12

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country... unto a land that I will shew thee:

2-3 And I will make of thee a great nation... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Abraham is given an unbelievable promise. Both Abram and Sarai are well past child-bearing age at this time, and the Lord is telling him that he will become a great nation. He is also given an amazing prophecy concerning the coming Messiah. The Lord could not be simply speaking about the blessing that would come from having a large family. How would that bless the countless families of the earth that were not even related to him? Jesus can be the only fulfillment of this prophecy, who would come to bless all people of all ages throughout the earth. Here we see that Abram also *walked with God* in faith. He did not

question or doubt. He only believed.

**4-7 So Abram departed... into the land of Canaan... And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land...**

This prophecy is fulfilled as well as Abraham would never actually possess any of the land of Canaan himself. Generations later, his seed would enter this *promised land* after being freed from captivity in Egypt.

**8 ...And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south... and Abram went down into Egypt... And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou *art* a fair woman to look upon:**

**12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.**

**13 Say, I pray thee, thou *art* my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.**

Again, just like Noah, we see an act of incredible faith – believing God enough to uproot his family and head out into the unknown – followed by a sinful act. Abram was going to lie about Sarai being his wife to protect himself.

**14-18 ...And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What *is* this *that* thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she *was* thy wife?... And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.**

God again proves Himself to be a merciful God, contrary to the opinion that many have about the way God is represented in the Old Testament. Instead of bringing judgement upon Abram for his unfaithfulness, he spares his life. This also shows that, once God makes a promise, He will keep it. He had promised Abram he would be the father of many nations. He could not allow an irate Pharaoh to take the life of the great patriarch Abram.

**[End]**