## Light Brings Salt

Volume 5, Issue 46 December 9, 2007



## Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God "Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



## Some beliefs of Mormons (Latter Day Saints) Dr. Warren Vanhetloo

- 1.) There is more than one true god. The Mormon Church teaches that there are many gods (Book of Abraham 4:3ff), and that men today also can become gods and goddesses in the celestial kingdom (Doctrine and Covenants 132:19-20; Gospel Principles, p. 245; Achieving a Celestial Marriage, p. 130). It further teaches that those who achieve godhood will have spirit children who will worship and pray to them, just as we worship and pray to God the Father (Gospel Principles, p. 302).
- 2.) God was once a man like us. The Mormon Church teaches that God the Father was once a man like us who progressed to become a god and has a body of flesh and bone (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22). "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-347; *Gospel Principles*, p. 9; *Articles of Faith*, p. 430; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 321). Indeed, the Mormon Church teaches that God himself has a father, and a grandfather, ad infinitum (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 373; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 577).
- 3.) The Mormon Church teaches that Jesus Christ is our elder brother who progressed to godhood, having first been procreated as a spirit child by Heavenly Father and a heavenly mother; He was later conceived physically through intercourse between Heavenly Father and the virgin Mary (*Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, p. 129; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 546-547; 742). Also, Mormon doctrine affirms that Jesus and Lucifer are

- brothers (*Gospel Principles*, pp. 17-18; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 192).
- 4.) The Mormon Church teaches that Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 370; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576-577), and that the Son and Holy Ghost are the literal offspring of Heavenly Father and a celestial wife (Joseph Fielding McConkie, *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, vol. 2, p. 649).
- 5.) The Bible teaches that the disobedience of our first parents Adam and Eve was a great evil. Through their fall, sin entered the world, bringing all human beings under condemnation and death. Thus we are born with a sinful nature, and will be judged for the sins we commit as individuals. (Ezekiel 18:1-20; Romans 5:12-21). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that Adam's sin was "a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all of us" (*Gospel Principles*, p. 33; Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 2:25; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pp. 114-115).
- 6.) The Mormon Church teaches that eternal life in the presence of God (which it terms "exaltation in the celestial kingdom") must be earned through obedience to all the commands of the Mormon Church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals. Works are a *requirement* for salvation (entrance into the "celestial kingdom") (*Gospel Principles*, p. 303-304; Pearl of Great Price, Third Article of Faith; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 339, 671; Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23).
- 7.) The Mormon Church teaches that the purpose of the atoning death of Jesus was to bring resurrection and immortality to all people, regardless of whether they receive Christ by faith. Christ's atonement is only a *partial* basis for worthiness and eternal life, which also requires

obedience to all the commands of the Mormon church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals (*Gospel Principles, pp. 74-75; Mormon Doctrine*, p. 669).

- 8.) The Mormon Church teaches that the Bible has been corrupted, is missing many "plain and precious parts" and does not contain the fullness of the Gospel (Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 13:26-29; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 3, pp. 190-191).
- 9.) The Mormon Church teaches that there was a great and total apostasy of the Church as established by Jesus Christ; this state of apostasy "still prevails except among those who have come to a knowledge of the restored gospel" of the Mormon Church (*Gospel Principles*, pp. 105-106; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 44).

Mormons share with orthodox Christians some important moral precepts from the Bible. However, the above are examples of many fundamental and irreconcilable differences between historic, biblical Christianity and Mormonism. While these differences do not keep us from being friendly with Mormons, we cannot consider them brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible specifically warns of false prophets who will teach "another gospel" centered around "another Jesus," and witnessed to by "another spirit" (2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15; Galatians 1:6-9). Based on their own teaching, Mormonism is such a counterfeit gospel.

## News Note on Sharia Law

The threat of Islam as a dominant force in America is a threat to national security and the leadership in the United States should rethink their appeasing strategies in dealing with Islam with strident measures in order to protect the country and its citizens. Islam's sharia law places all peoples under the religious law of Islam and it is the mandate of Islam to bring the people of the world into submission to sharia law. This premise is incompatible with the Constitutional Republic form of government in the U.S. American leadership should take seriously the strategies of Islam to take over the nation and crush it before it happens.

Many would try to justify allowing Islam to prosper and grow in the United States because of the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom. When a so-called religion, however, uses this freedom to attempt to take over this nation and establish Islamic laws that are contrary to the Constitution of the United States, this religion must be considered a threat to the nation. Leading Muslim clerics in the United States along with radical Muslim movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood and most Muslim organizations already planted in America have embarked upon a strategy to resettle the country through establishing Islamic Centers that administer their own "religious" laws.

Shutting down the Islamic revolution in the U.S. is difficult, especially in these days of political correctness where concerns about an Islamic enemy are met with harsh criticism and accusations of bigotry and prejudice. But one leader has blazed the trail of impeding Islam in his own country. Australian Prime Minister John Howard recently angered some Australian Muslims with his support of spy agencies monitoring the nation's mosques. He said, "Immigrants, not Australians, must adapt. Take it or leave it. I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture." Howard had Muslim leaders pledge an oath of loyalty to Australia while making it clear that extremists would face a crackdown.

Howard's likely successor, Treasurer Peter Costello, took it a step further. He said, "I'd be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia: one the Australian law and another Islamic law that is false; If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices it, perhaps, then, that's a better option." American leaders would do well to follow Australia's lead before an American manifestation occurs of the prophecy of Jeremiah 51:14, "I shall fill you with men as with locusts and they shall lift up a battle cry against you."