

# Jesus in the Bible vs. Mormonism

A comprehensive comparison of how Jesus Christ is understood in traditional Christianity versus the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, highlighting key theological differences and distinctive practices.





# Understanding Jesus' Identity

## **Biblical Christianity**

Jesus is the eternal Son of God, second person of the Trinity, fully God and fully man. He has always existed as divine, co-eternal with the Father.

## **Mormon Doctrine**

Jesus is the literal first spirit-child of God the Father and a heavenly Mother, seen as a separate being from the Father and Holy Ghost. He progressed to godhood under the Father's authority.

# The Nature of Christ's Divinity

## Traditional Christian View

Jesus has always been divine, existing co-eternally with the Father. His divinity is not acquired but inherent to His nature as the second person of the Trinity.

- Eternal existence
- Co-equal with the Father
- Unchanging divine nature

## LDS Perspective

Jesus is divine but not co-eternal in the same way as traditional Christianity teaches. He progressed to godhood under the Father's authority and guidance.

- Progressive divinity
- Subordinate to the Father
- Acquired divine status



## The Virgin Birth: Two Interpretations

### **Biblical Account**

Born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, representing God incarnate - the divine Word made flesh.

### **Mormon Teaching**

Born of the Virgin Mary, but LDS teachings emphasize a more literal fatherhood of God the Father in the conception process.

peace  
on earth

# Christ's Mission and Salvation



## **Biblical Christianity**

Jesus came to save humanity from sin through His life, death, and resurrection. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works.



## **Mormon Doctrine**

Jesus provides resurrection for all and atonement for sin, but full exaltation requires faith, baptism, temple ordinances, and obedience to LDS teachings.

# Death and Resurrection: The Central Event

Both traditions affirm the crucifixion, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day, but they interpret its significance differently within their theological frameworks.

1

## Crucifixion

Jesus died on the cross for the sins of humanity

2

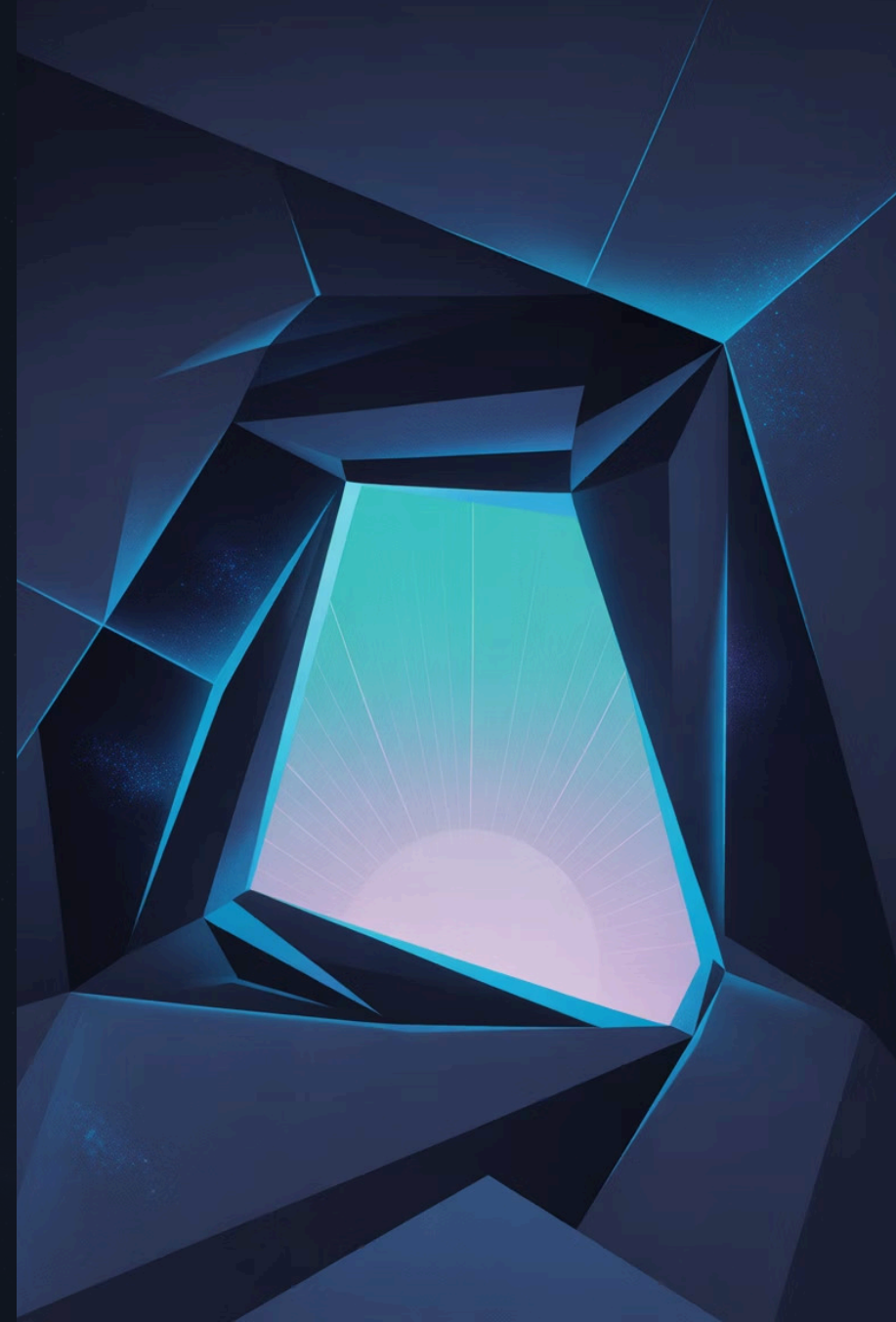
## Burial

His body was placed in a tomb for three days

3

## Resurrection

He rose bodily from the dead, conquering death



# The Second Coming: Future Hope

## Christian Expectation

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead, bringing final salvation and establishing His eternal kingdom for all believers.



## LDS Vision

Jesus will return to reign during the Millennium, establish Zion in America, and lead the final judgment with emphasis on LDS church structure and organization.

- Millennial reign
- Zion in America
- LDS-centered judgment

# Sacred Scriptures: Sources of Truth



## **Biblical Christianity**

The Bible (Old and New Testament) serves as the sole inspired word of God, containing all necessary truth for faith and practice.



## **Mormon Scripture**

Four standard works: the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price are all considered inspired scripture.

# Prophets and Religious Authority

01

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## New Testament Foundation

Traditional Christianity recognizes no additions to the Canon of scripture, with faith anchored in the completed New Testament revelation - nothing added by modern day prophets.

02

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## Modern Revelation

Mormonism was founded by Joseph Smith in the 1800s, who claimed revelation from the angel Moroni. The LDS church continues to be led by modern prophets.



# Distinctive LDS Practices



## Sacred Garments

LDS members wear special temple garments as a reminder of covenants made in temple ceremonies.



## Temple Rituals

Sacred ordinances performed in temples, including endowments and sealings for eternal families.



## Baptism for the Dead

Proxy baptisms performed for deceased individuals who didn't receive LDS ordinances in life.

# Traditional Christian Practices

Traditional Christianity focuses on core spiritual disciplines without special religious clothing or additional ordinances beyond biblical sacraments.



## Faith and Grace

Emphasis on salvation by grace through faith alone, not dependent on works or special ceremonies.



## Biblical Sacraments

Baptism and communion as the primary ordinances established by Christ and the apostles.



## Scripture and Prayer

Focus on Bible study, prayer, and fellowship as means of spiritual growth and connection with God.



# The Relationship Between Jesus and Humanity

## Biblical View

Jesus is uniquely divine, the only begotten Son of God, distinct from all created beings including humanity.



## Mormon Teaching

Jesus is the elder brother of all humans and even Lucifer, all being spirit children of heavenly parents.

# Salvation: Grace vs. Ordinances

## Salvation by Grace Alone

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works." - Ephesians 2:8-9

Traditional Christianity teaches that salvation comes entirely through God's grace, received by faith, without dependence on human works or ceremonies.

## Faith Plus Ordinances

Mormon doctrine teaches that while Jesus provides atonement, full exaltation requires:

- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Baptism by proper authority
- Temple ordinances
- Obedience to LDS teachings
- Enduring to the end

# Key Theological Differences

1

## Trinity vs. Godhead

One God in three persons  
versus three separate  
divine beings

2

## Eternal vs. Progressive

Jesus as eternally divine  
versus progressing to  
godhood

3

## Grace vs. Works

Salvation by grace alone  
versus grace plus  
ordinances

4

## Scripture Authority

Bible alone versus  
additional LDS scriptures



# Understanding the Fundamental Distinction

The core difference between biblical Christianity and Mormonism centers on the nature of Jesus Christ and the path to salvation.

## **Biblical Christianity**

Jesus is the eternal God incarnate, offering salvation by grace alone through faith. He is uniquely divine, co-equal with the Father, providing complete redemption through His sacrifice.

## **Mormon Doctrine**

Jesus is divine but created, serving as elder brother to all humanity. Salvation requires faith plus LDS ordinances and obedience, with progression toward godhood as the ultimate goal.

These differences reflect fundamentally different understandings of God's nature, Christ's identity, and humanity's relationship with the divine.