

THE CHURCH DID NOT NEED TO BE RESTORED; IT NEVER LEFT

According to Mormonism Christ's church was non-existent soon after the apostles and was restored upon the earth in the 1800s through Joseph Smith. Following are some quotes from L.D.S. sources.

Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith, 2:17-19
(PDF LDS Scripture pg. 919)

“17) It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other — This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!

18) My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong) — and which I should join.

19) I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that ‘they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.’”

Here in L.D.S. scripture we find that Joseph Smith declared that he should not join any of the churches in his day because they were all wrong, and their creeds were an abomination to the Lord.

D&C 1:29-30 (PDF LDS Scripture pg. 569)

“(29) And after having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon. 30) And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually...”

This L.D.S. scripture shows that Joseph Smith was to be used to lay the foundation of the Lord's church.

Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce R. McConkie, pg. 43 (PDF pg. 19)

APOSTASY

“This universal apostasy began in the days of the ancient apostles themselves.”

According to this Mormon Apostle, apostasy (when the church disappeared from the face of the earth) began in the first century. Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.4

“TRUE AND LIVING CHURCH

However, as Christ and his apostles had prophesied, the ‘true’ Church they established was lost from the earth through apostasy (JS—M 1:7-9, 22; 2 Thes. 2:3). Therefore, there was a need for a restoration. Guided by angelic messengers and by revelation from God, Joseph Smith and his successors have reestablished Christ's Church in these ‘latter days.’ Members bear testimony that the Church is true because they believe it is the restored Church of Christ, with the same authority, teachings, organization, and spirit found in the Church that the Savior originally established.”

The Bible does tell us of a falling away in the last days. It does not, however, declare that Christ's church would disappear altogether from the face of the earth.

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

What is His government? It is His rule or dominion that will increase, and there will be no end. God rules over and has dominion over His church. God says there will be no end to this government from the time of Christ is born till forevermore. He does not say, “There will be a break in this government for almost 2,000 years, and then I will restore it through Joseph Smith.”

Ephesians 3:21

“...to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

(In this verse, Paul declares, to God be the glory in the church and in Jesus forever.)

Luke 1:32-33

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

Corinthians 4:20

“For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.”

(In Luke, an angel declares that Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom would have no end. Paul declares in his letter to the Corinthians that the kingdom of God consists of power. Are we to believe that the Lord had no power upon the earth for almost 2,000 years, and that there was a multiple generation gap of Jesus' reign over the house of Jacob?)

Matthew 16:18

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

The Rock is Christ; 1 Corinthians 10:4

"...and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ."

Here we see that Christ's church is even stronger than the gates of Hell. Nothing or no one can break Christ's church, not even for a short time. God the Father, Jesus in the flesh, an Angel, and Paul — all indicated there would be no end to Christ's church. There was no indication or implication that there would be a break; why restore something that is not gone? Throughout the judgment in the book of Isaiah, God leaves a remnant, a few people. In Chapters 6-9 of Genesis, which discusses God's flooding of the world, he saved Noah and his family. When God wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah, He spared Lot and his daughters (Genesis 18 and 19). Elijah thought he was the only one left who served God, yet God said he reserved 7,000 others (1 Kings 19:13- 18). God has always been capable of keeping His followers from being wiped out, and He promised to do so.

Yet along comes Joseph Smith, who says that the church is gone and insists that God gave him a whole new revelation. Joseph then builds a new church; one that does not believe the doctrines found in the Bible.

For the Church to be “Restored” it would first have to exist.
Concerning major doctrines; As Christians we can quote people in the 1st century showing that we interpreted scripture the same way they did.

Why can't Mormons show that anybody in the 1st century taught and believed major doctrines of the L.D.S Church? Answer: Because it never existed until Joseph Smith invented it.