

**SOPHIA DIALOGUES
WITH AN
LDS MISSIONARY**

SOPHIA IN GREEK MEANS WISDOM

JOE THE MISSIONARY: This anti-Mormon literature is offensive. The LDS church never attacks your church.

SOPHIA: Well, The *Pearl of Great Price in Joseph Smith* 2:18,19 says: "...I asked the Personages...which of **all the sects** was right-...I was answered...they were **all wrong**;...**all their creeds** were **an abomination** in his sight; that those professors were **all corrupt**;..." The LDS church says that there was a **total apostasy** of my church.

JOE: So are you saying that this literature is a **defense** against Joseph Smith's attack on your church?

SOPHIA: Yes! For example, this literature points out that a well known Mormon couplet says that
"As man is, god once was; as god is, man may become." **So where did the first man come from?**

JOE: It is an eternal chain. A man became a god who created a man who became a god, and so on.

SOPHIA: It is **impossible** to have an eternal chain made up of **finite dependent** links. The first man **cannot** come from nothing or from inanimate matter. **There must be an eternal independent Creator** to account for our finite existence. Please take your **Bible, which is the Word of God**, and read **Psalm 90:2**.

JOE: OK, it says, "**From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**"

SOPHIA: The **Bible** says that God has **always existed as God**.

JOE: That is interesting. But in order to become a god you must become a member of the LDS church.

SOPHIA: It is **impossible** for anyone who is a **finite created being** to become an **eternal uncreated being**. Please take your **Bible** again and read **Isaiah 43:10**.

JOE: It says, "**...saith the LORD,...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**"

SOPHIA: **God Himself** says that **nobody can ever become God**. It is **impossible!**

JOE: That is your interpretation.

SOPHIA: **There is nothing to interpret**. **God** is **explicit** and **clear**. Please read **Isaiah 44:6** from the **Bible**.

JOE: It says, "**Thus saith the LORD...I am the first, and I am the last: and beside me there is no God.**"

SOPHIA: **God says He doesn't know of any other God**. **There is nothing to interpret**. I understand that the LDS church teaches that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's and is confined in space.

JOE: Yes, that is correct according to the LDS Doctrine and Covenants 130:22.

SOPHIA: Let me read what **Jesus Christ** says about that in **John 4:24** and **Luke 24:39**. **Jesus says**, "**God is a spirit....a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**" This is another **explicit** statement that needs no interpretation. So that there is no doubt please read from the **Bible Jeremiah 23:24**.

JOE: It says, "**Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.**"

SOPHIA: The god the LDS church worships is a **dependent created being**, who progressed from being a man and is **confined** in a body of flesh and bones. **The Bible says God is an independent uncreated spirit being who has always existed, is everywhere present and created everything**. **God's first commandment** says that we are not to worship a **false god**. This literature answers Joseph Smith **as commanded by Jude 1:3 in the Bible**.

JOE: Well, I can see that this literature **has the right** to answer Joseph Smith's attack on your church.

JOE THE MISSIONARY: The LDS Church is the only true church because the LDS church is the only one that has a living prophet like they did in the Old Testament.

SOPHIA: The Old Testament prophets **pointed to Jesus (Luke 24:27)**. Now that **Christ has come**, lived a sinless life, died for our sins and **risen from the dead** **He is our living Prophet, Melchisedec Priest and King**. The **Bible** makes this clear when it says, **“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,”** (Hebrews 1:1-2). (Hebrews 8:1)

JOE: But only the LDS church has eternal marriages sealed in a temple which is required to become a god.

SOPHIA: I know that is what *Mormon Doctrine* on page 118-119 teaches **But Jesus says, “They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels”** (Luke 20:35-36). **God says, “Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me”** (Isaiah 43:10).

JOE: Well, I prayed and received a testimony from god that the LDS church is the true church.

SOPHIA: How do you know that your testimony comes **from God?** How do you know that it did not come from a **deceiving spirit?** The **Bible** says, **“Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world”** (1 John 4:1). Did you test the spirit by **the Bible?** The **Bible** says, **“If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”** (Isaiah 8:20). We have seen that the LDS church does **not** speak according to **Jesus and the Bible**. So how are you saved?

JOE: The LDS *Third Article of Faith* says, “Through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”

SOPHIA: **But the Bible** says, **“By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin”** (Romans 3:20). **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23). **“There is none righteous, no, not one”** (Romans 3:10). **“We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”** (Isaiah 64:6).

JOE: So how can we be **saved from our sins** and the wrath of God at **the Day of Judgement?** (John 5:24,27-29)

SOPHIA: **Jesus** says, **“Everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day”** (John 6:40). We must believe in the **Jesus of the Bible**, not the Mormon Jesus.

JOE: Just believe? That’s all? What about **“faith without works is dead”** in **James** chapter two?

SOPHIA: We are saved by **faith in Christ** who **died for our sins** and was **raised** to life. **But** it has to be **real live faith**. A **dead faith** that produces no works saves no one. The **Bible** says, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”** (Ephesians 2:8-10). **“We conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law....Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: Yea, we establish the law”** (Romans 3:28, 31).

JOE: So the **Bible** says that **FAITH plus WORKS → JUSTIFICATION** is false?

SOPHIA: Yes, that is **legalism**. The **Bible** also says that **FAITH → JUSTIFICATION minus WORKS** is false (James 2:14-26). This is called **antinomianism**. Some **professing** Christians are antinomians. These are **false gospels**. The **Bible** teaches that **FAITH → JUSTIFICATION plus WORKS**. Our works have no **merit** in our salvation but **works are necessary** as a product of a real live faith. We are saved by **faith in Jesus Christ BUT** if we have **no works** then we have **dead** faith and we won’t be saved. Study the gospel of **John** and the book of **Romans** and the rest of the **New Testament** and the **Old Testament**. Receive the **Jesus of the Bible** today (See John 20:31).

SOPHIA: Jesus is **fully man** and **fully God** (John 1:1-18). Do you worship Jesus as God who created your spirit?

JOE: No! Jesus is **my spirit brother**. Jesus is **not my spirit creator**. Let me read what the Mormon Church says according to one of its former apostles Bruce McConkie on page 214 in his book *Mormon Doctrine* 1966: "Christ is literally our Elder Brother. Since all men are the personal spirit children of the Father, and since Christ was the Firstborn spirit offspring, it follows that he is the Elder Brother of all men."

SOPHIA: Since the **Bible** is considered to be **Scripture** by the Mormon Church may we look at a few **Bible** verses?

JOE: Of course. Mormons believe the **Bible** as far as it is translated correctly. Mormons use **the King James Bible**.

SOPHIA: Great! I understand that the Mormon Church says that **the LORD** (Jehovah) **in the Old Testament is Jesus Christ**. Is that correct?

JOE: Yes, the Mormon Church says that Jesus is the LORD in the Old Testament. (*Mormon Doctrine* page 392.)

SOPHIA: Fine! Let's see what **the Old Testament** says:

Zechariah 12:1 says, "...the **LORD** [Jehovah], which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him."

Jeremiah 38:16 says, "...As the **LORD** [Jehovah] liveth, that made us this soul,...."

Isaiah 43:3; 44:2 says, "For I am the **LORD** [Jehovah] thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:...Thus saith the **LORD** [Jehovah] that made thee, and formed thee from the womb,...."

JOE: That is just your interpretation.

SOPHIA: I never interpreted these verses. **I just read them**. You interpreted them to **mean what they say**. **Jesus Christ is the creator of our spirits**. Let me read from **the New Testament**:

John 1:1,3,14 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,...." (See Malachi 2:10)

Colossians 1:14,16 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:...For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:..."(See Nehemiah 9:6)

Philippians 2:11 says, "That every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

And again from the Old Testament in reference to Philippians 2:11: Isaiah 44:24 says, "Thus saith the **LORD** [Jehovah], thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the **LORD** [Jehovah] that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;"

JOE: I will have to look into this further and get back with you.

SOPHIA: That would be a wise thing to do. It is fatal to believe in a **false Jesus** as the **Bible** and **Jesus** make clear:

2 Corinthians 11:3,4 says, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached,...."

Matthew 24:4,5 says, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name,...."

John 8:24,25 says, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning."

JOE: Why do you believe the **New Testament**? Why don't you accept the Book of Mormon?

SOPHIA: Jesus Christ appointed apostles whose message was certified by God with miracles. An apostle (or his close companion) wrote the New Testament books in Greek. These books were in harmony with the Old Testament which Jesus had said was the Word of God **without error** (Matthew 22:29). These books were copied, circulated and received as accurate by eyewitnesses of the events described including the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

JOE: Do we have the original documents?

SOPHIA: We do not have the original autographs, but we have over **five thousand Greek manuscript copies** in whole or in part of the New Testament with some dating back to **the second century**.

JOE: I heard that there are many errors in these Greek copies.

SOPHIA: Most of the errors are **very minor** consisting of spelling and word order. By **comparing** these many copies, scholars have been able to **correct** the errors and **reconstruct the New Testament** to essentially as it was **first written in Greek by the Apostles**.

JOE: What about the other early writings that were **not** included in the New Testament?

SOPHIA: They were not included because **they were not written by Jesus' apostles**. They were not **commissioned by Jesus** or **certified by God with miracles**. They were written long **after all** of the **eyewitnesses had died**. These writings contradicted the Old Testament and they had **other agendas** besides recording accurate history. People **throughout history** have tried to use these writings to promote their books and their **personal agendas**. The Jesus Seminar and The Da Vinci Code are present day examples.

JOE: Why are there so many translations of **the Greek** manuscript?

SOPHIA: We **are blessed** to have many scholars working to translate **the Greek** manuscript into our modern languages. Languages, including English, are **constantly changing**. So translations need to be **constantly updated** and improved.

JOE: Which **English translation** of the Bible should we be reading?

SOPHIA: A few late dated **Greek Byzantine** manuscripts were used to produce the King James Bible translation in 1611. While **the King James Bible** has proven to be an excellent and trustworthy Bible, we have since then gathered more ancient manuscripts. Through **more study** we have tried to **sharpen up** the **Greek text**. Most modern translations are based on this **Greek text**. It is difficult to say which of the **excellent translations** is best. It is a good idea to read the King James Bible along with a translation using modern day English.

JOE: What about the Book of Mormon?

SOPHIA: Jesus Christ never authorized the Book of Mormon like He did **the Old and New Testaments**. There were **no miracles or eyewitnesses** to the Book of Mormon like there were to **the Old and New Testaments**. There is **no** verifiable historical **evidence** for the Book of Mormon like there is for **the Old and New Testaments**. There are many archaeological and other problems which demonstrate that the Book of Mormon is **not** Scripture or real history. The Book of Mormon **has been changed** since it was first published and **it contradicts the Bible**. You can investigate this information for yourself. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 4:1; Matthew 24:4-5)

READ: John 14:26, 15:27, 16:13-14; Luke 24:44-48; Matthew 22:29-32, 24:35

To see how to get to heaven read the Gospel of John (See John 20:31, 14:6, 17:3, 8:24). Then read the book of Romans and then the rest of the New Testament and the Old Testament. CHRIST HAS RISEN!