

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S RELIGION

MORMONISM

MORMONISM

- ▶ History
- ▶ Sources of Theology
- ▶ Key Beliefs
- ▶ What to do when they come knocking at your door

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

- ▶ 1805
 - ▶ Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder of the organization now called The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also referred to as the Mormon Church), was born on December 23rd in Sharon, Vermont, the fifth child of Lucy Mack and Joseph Smith, Sr. (Some list him as the fourth child, not listing the Smith's first child who died at birth, or shortly after.)
- ▶ 1811
 - ▶ The Smith family moved to Lebanon, New Hampshire.
- ▶ 1813
 - ▶ Joseph Smith contracted typhus fever. Infection settled in leg, which required surgery. Left him with a slight limp the rest of his life.
- ▶ 1816
 - ▶ The Smiths moved to the Palmyra, New York area (40 miles east of Rochester, NY)

▶ 1820 Spring

- ▶ Years after the event, Joseph claimed that after attending a revival in the area he had a vision of the Father and Son. He was told not to join any church as they were all wrong, their creeds were an abomination to God and the professors of those creeds were all corrupt (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith—History 1:19). However, there is no evidence of a revival that year, and Smith didn't record the vision until years later.

▶ 1822

- ▶ Joseph Smith found a seer stone while digging a well for a neighbor. He used this stone for a number of years to search for buried treasure. Later he would use it to translate the Book of Mormon, and to receive his early revelations. According to David Whitmer, Smith's revelations up to June 1829 came through his stone.

VISION PROBLEMS

- ▶ The date / his age – from 1823 (age 16), to 1821 (age 15), to 1820 (age 14)
- ▶ The reason or motive for seeking divine help – from no motive (a spirit appears with the news of gold plates), Bible reading and conviction of sins, a revival, a desire to know if God exists.
- ▶ Who appears to him – a spirit, an angel, two angels, Jesus, many angels, the Father and the Son.

▶ 1823 Sept. 23rd

- ▶ The Angel Moroni allegedly visited Joseph in his bedroom three times, announcing that Smith was called to translate the ancient record of God's dealings with the former inhabitants of the Americas. This record was hidden in a hill a few miles from Smith's home, now referred to as the Hill Cumorah. Smith was to meet with the angel on the same date each year until God deemed him ready to translate.

▶ 1823 Nov. 19

- ▶ Joseph Smith's brother Alvin died due to a bowel obstruction. Minister at funeral implied Alvin went to hell as he was not a baptized Christian.

▶ 1824

- ▶ Starting in the Fall there was a revival in the neighborhood involving the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists. This continued into Spring 1825. Joseph's mother, sister and two brothers joined the Presbyterians.

▶ 1825 Oct.–Nov.

- ▶ Josiah Stowell hired Joseph and his father to help him search for buried treasure near Harmony, Pennsylvania. Joseph boarded with Isaac Hale, where he met his future bride, Emma Hale.

▶ 1826 March 20th

- ▶ Joseph Smith was brought before Judge Albert Neeley on charges of money digging, using a "peep stone" to locate buried treasures for hire, according to Court records of Chenango County, State of New York, People vs Joseph Smith, "The Glass Looker." (Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?, pp. 32-35)

▶ 1827 Jan.

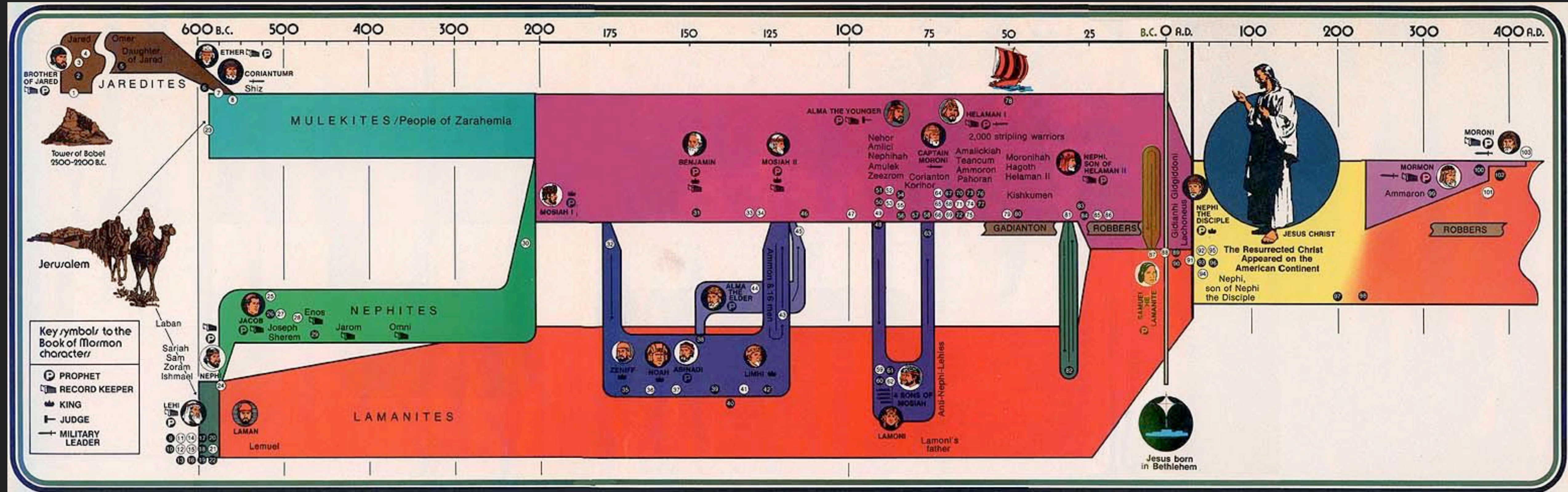
- ▶ Joseph eloped with Emma Hale. Her father opposed the wedding on grounds that Smith had no visible means of support and his involvement with magic and treasure hunting. Mr. Stowell helped Joseph and Emma move back to Manchester, NY.

▶ 1827 Sept. 22

- ▶ Joseph went to the hill and received from the Angel Moroni the gold plates, Written in "Reformed Egyptian," it claimed to be the history of migrations from the old world to the new. One group came at the time of the Tower of Babel, the others about 600 BC. The descendants of these people became the American Indian.

▶ 1827 Nov./Dec.

- ▶ Joseph and Emma moved back to her father's farm in Harmony, Pa. They took the plates with them, hid in a barrel of beans. Started to translate.





▶ 1828 Feb.

- ▶ Martin Harris, who would later act as a scribe for Smith, took a document containing some of the characters copied from the plates to Samuel L. Mitchell and Charles Anthon to see if they were authentic. Prof. Anthon told him they were not authentic.

▶ 1828 April

- ▶ Harris remained convinced that Smith was telling the truth and became his scribe.

Caractors

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▶ 1828 June

- ▶ Harris took 116 pages of manuscript back to Palmyra to convince his wife the translation was true. Lucy Harris either destroyed the pages or hid them.

▶ 1828 June 15

- ▶ Smith's first child died shortly after birth, leaving Emma near death. Sometime after this, Joseph traveled to his parents' home to retrieve the manuscript from Harris, only to learn that Harris had lost it.

THE LOST 116 PAGES—A NEW REVELATION TO SMITH! (D&C SECTION 10)

- ▶ The loss of the 116 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript is an example of Satan's efforts to destroy the Prophet Joseph Smith and to prevent the kingdom of God from being established.
- ▶ 1. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that Satan was behind the loss of the manuscript.
- ▶ 2. Satan sought to discredit the Lord's Prophet and to eliminate the powerful witness for Christ that the Book of Mormon would provide.
- ▶ 3. The Lord used this experience to teach the Prophet about the reality and methods of Satan.

▶ 1828 Spring/Summer

- ▶ Joseph Smith signed up for the Methodist Church membership class.

▶ 1828 Fall

- ▶ In the fall Smith returned to his translation, using his brother Samuel, wife Emma, and her brother Reuben as scribes.

▶ 1829 April

- ▶ Oliver Cowdery took over as scribe.

▶ 1829 May 15th

- ▶ John the Baptist allegedly appeared and bestowed the Aaronic Priesthood on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery as part of the restoration of God's Church on earth – authority that Smith claimed had been lost shortly after Jesus died. Smith later claimed that sometime after receiving the Aaronic Priesthood, Peter, James and John bestowed upon Joseph and Oliver the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Priesthood

- Aaronic (23-28)
 - Lesser/Preparatory: faithfulness in magnifying the Aaronic priesthood prepares one to officiate in the ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood.
 - “Keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins.” (13: 1)
- Melchizedek (6-22)
 - Greater Priesthood/Fullness
 - “Administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the knowledge of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority and power of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; For without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live” (84:19-22)

▶ 1829 June

- ▶ Secured copyright for Book of Mormon. Moved to Fayette, NY to complete his translation.

▶ 1830 (early in year)

- ▶ In order to raise funds for the printing of the Book of Mormon, Joseph gave a revelation for several men to travel to Canada to sell the copyright. The revelation failed and was not included in his 1833 printing of his revelations.

▶ 1830 March

- ▶ 5,000 copies of Book of Mormon were printed by the Grandin Print Shop in Palmyra, NY. Martin Harris pledged his farm to cover the printing costs. In April of 1831 one hundred and fifty-one acres of Harris' farm were auctioned off to pay the bill.

▶ 1830 April 6th

- ▶ The Church of Christ was organized in New York with a handful of people, as God's one true church on earth. [D&C 1:30] Smith's church would change its name two more times.

▶ 1830 June

- ▶ Began his revision of the Bible. Work on the revision continued into 1833. It has been estimated that half of the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants are in some way connected to this translation effort. While the whole revision has been printed by the Community of Christ (formerly the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), the LDS Church only prints extracts from the revision in the back of their bible.

▶ 1830 Nov.

- ▶ Sidney Rigdon and other Campbellites joined Mormonism.

▶ 1831 Feb.

- ▶ The Smiths and the church moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where Rigdon had been a pastor.

▶ 1831 June

- ▶ Smith traveled to Jackson County, Mo. where it was revealed that it was to be the site of the City of Zion and a temple. Mormons started settlements in Missouri. Members living in two main groups, in Ohio and Missouri.

- ▶ 1832 Feb. 16
 - ▶ Smith recorded his revelation on 3 degrees of glory in heaven. Also contained teaching that all humans are "begotten sons and daughters unto God" (D&C 76).
- ▶ 1832 March
 - ▶ Smith and Rigdon tarred and feathered in Ohio.
- ▶ 1832 Sept.
 - ▶ Revelation that the church was to build a temple in New Jerusalem (Independence, Mo.) in "this generation." (D&C 84:1-5)

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1832 Fall

- ▶ Joseph Smith wrote the earliest account of his first vision, attributing it to his "sixteenth year" (or 15 years old). In it he only mentioned "the Lord" as appearing, no mention of God the Father appearing as well.

▶ 1832 December 25

- ▶ Smith prophesied about the rebellion of South Carolina leading to a war between the States that would lead to wars between nations, then an end to all nations.

▶ 1833 July

- ▶ Joseph Smith's revelations were published as the Book of Commandments, at Independence, Missouri. The press was destroyed before the printing was completed, but a number of copies were salvaged.

▶ 1833 Fall

- ▶ Mormons driven from Jackson County, Mo.

▶ 1834

- ▶ The name of the church was changed to The Church of the Latter Day Saints.

▶ 1834 May

- ▶ Smith led group of Mormons, called Zion's Camp, to Missouri to reclaim their lands. Effort unsuccessful.

▶ 1834 Fall

- ▶ E.D. Howe published first anti-Mormon expose, Mormonism Unveiled. Contained statements from Smith's NY neighbors about the Smiths involvement with magic and money digging.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1835 Feb.

- ▶ Organized Council of Twelve Apostles, Quorum of Seventy.

▶ 1835 July

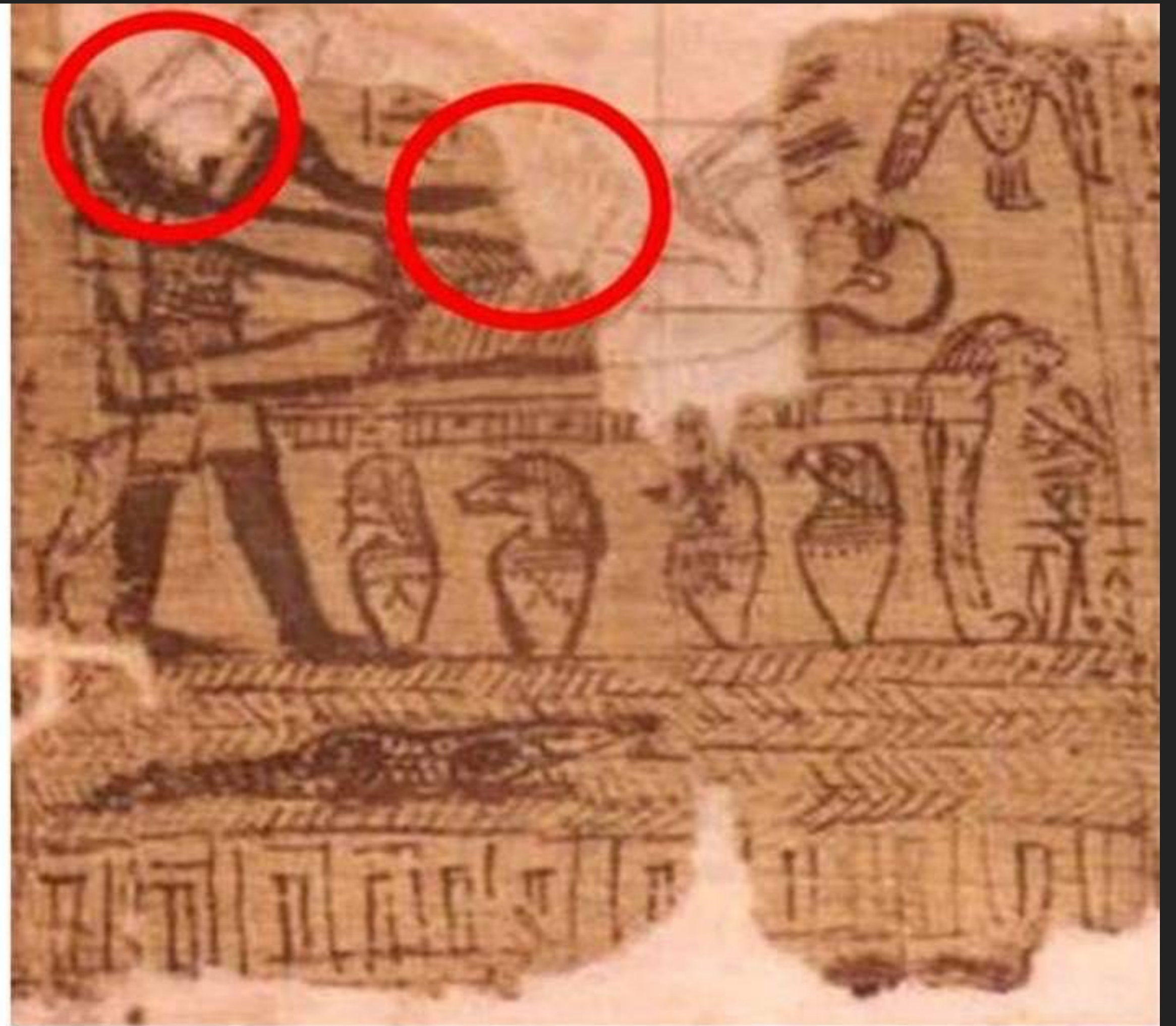
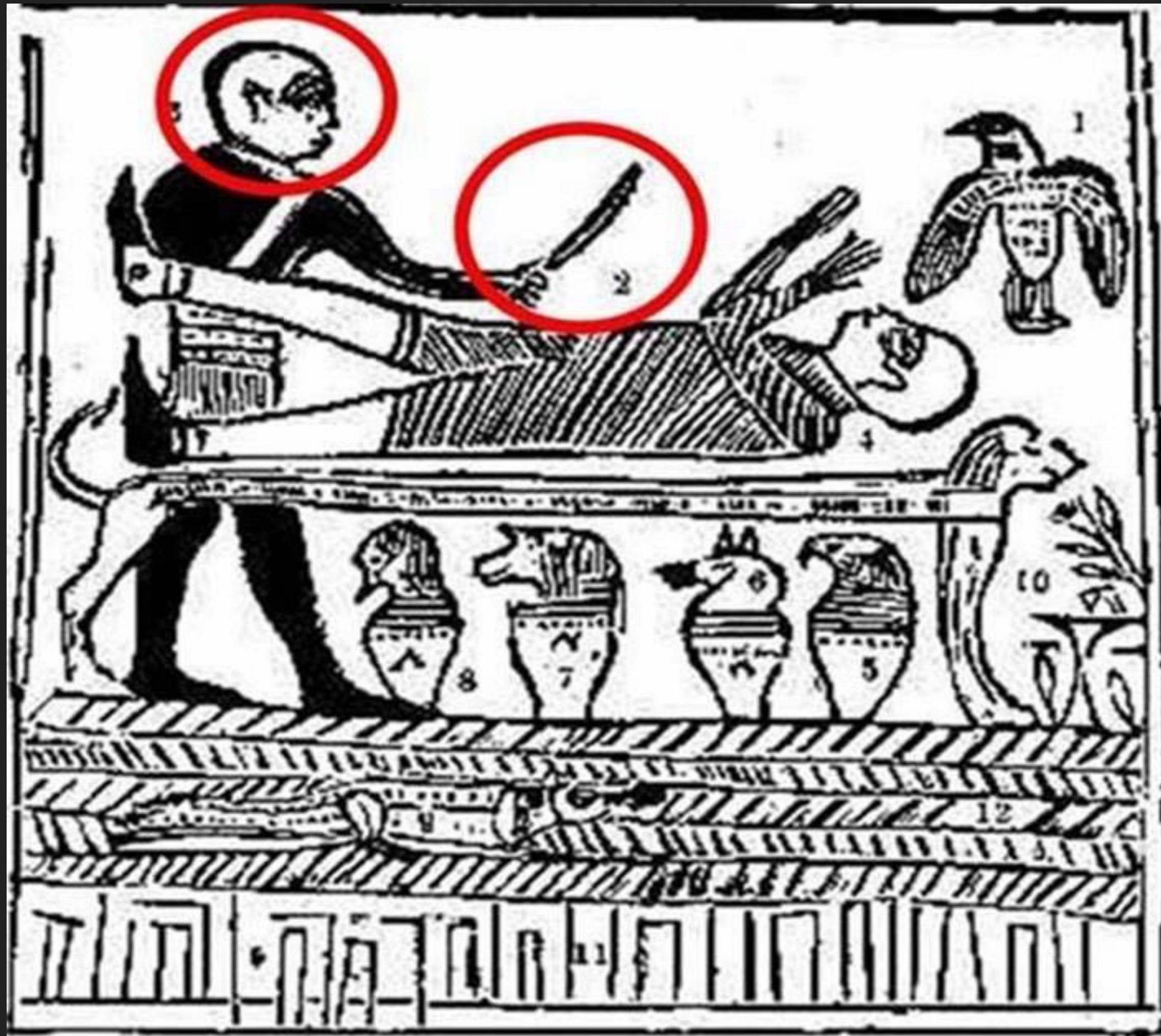
- ▶ Church purchased Egyptian mummies and papyri. Smith began his "translating" of the papyri, which would eventually be published as the Book of Abraham, part of the Pearl of Great Price. Also composed an Egyptian alphabet and grammar. About this time Joseph Smith had an affair with a young woman staying in his home, Fanny Alger. It was later claimed to be a plural marriage. Oliver Cowdery referred to it in 1838 as a "dirty, nasty, filthy affair."

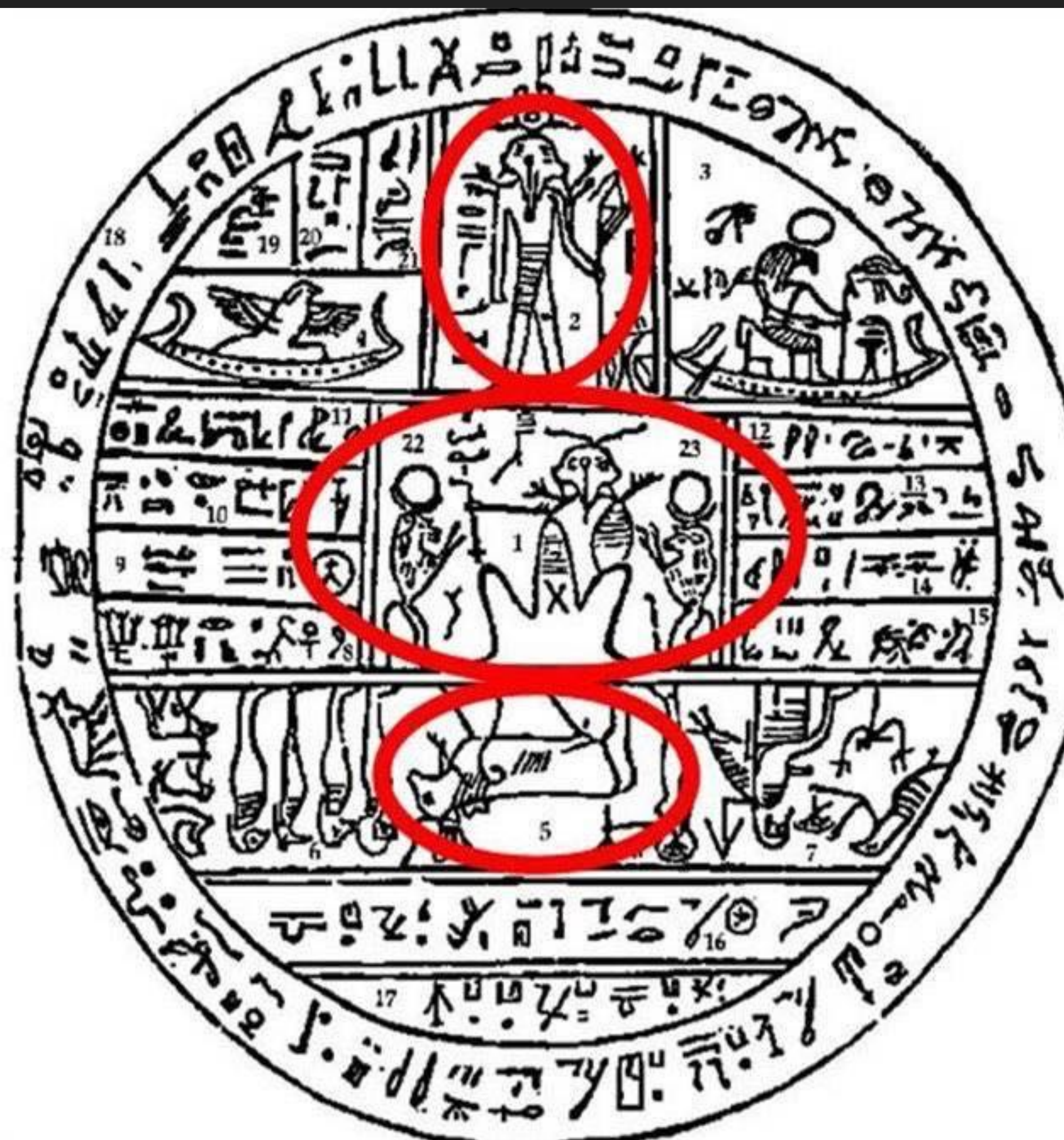
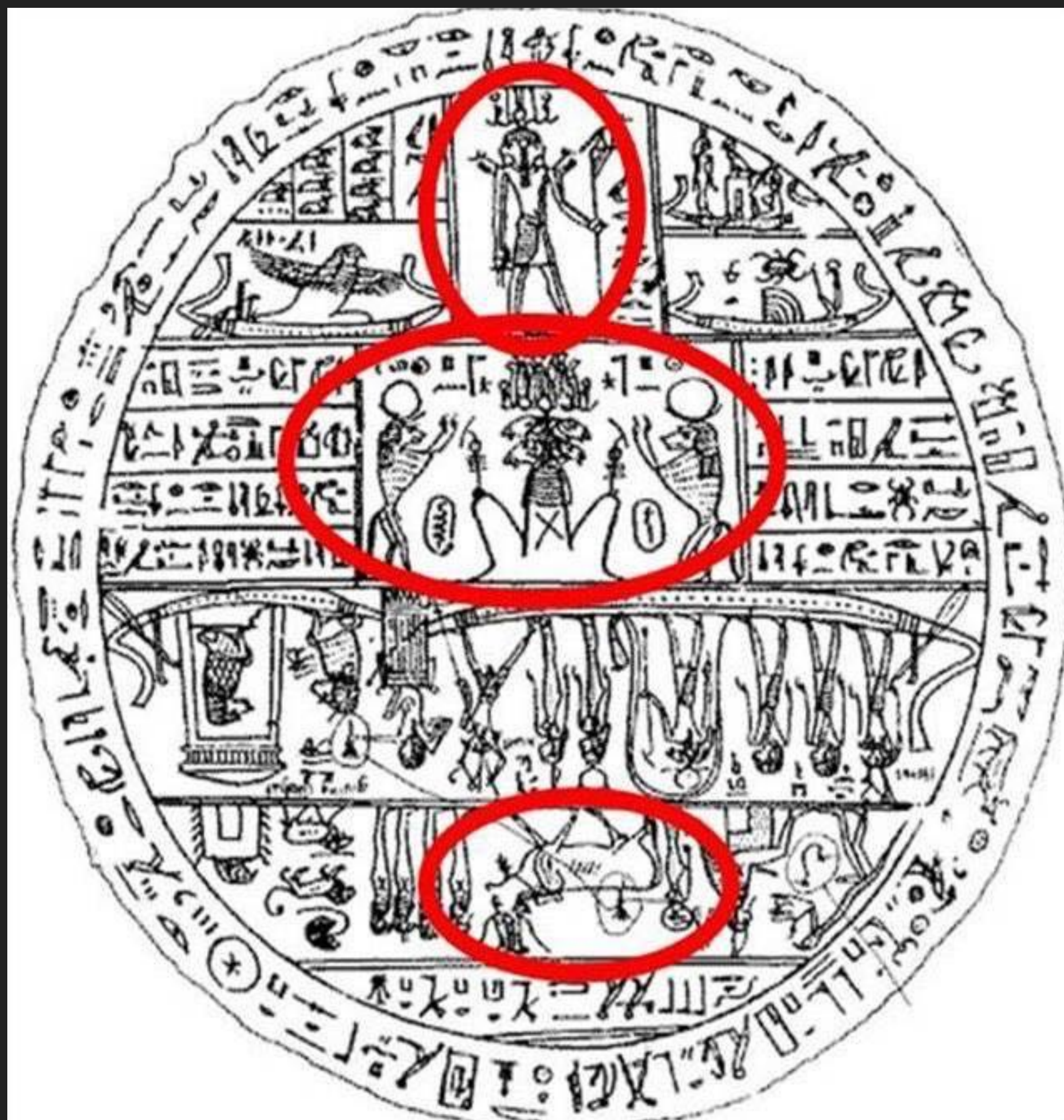
▶ 1835 Sept.

- ▶ A new edition of Joseph Smith's revelations was published under the title Doctrine and Covenants. However, numerous changes were made in the revelations from the 1833 printing. Section 101:4 denied the practice of polygamy. This section was maintained in every ed. of the D&C until replaced in 1876 with section 132 commanding polygamy. Also included in the 1835 ed. were the Lectures on Faith, which were deleted years later, in the 1921 ed. of the D&C.









THE OFFICIAL LDS POSITION ON THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

- ▶ “The veracity and value of the book of Abraham cannot be settled by scholarly debate concerning the book’s translation and historicity. The book’s status as scripture lies in the eternal truths it teaches and the powerful spirit it conveys. The book of Abraham imparts profound truths about the nature of God, His relationship to us as His children, and the purpose of this mortal life. The truth of the book of Abraham is ultimately found through careful study of its teachings, sincere prayer, and the confirmation of the Spirit.”

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1836 March

- ▶ Dedicated the Kirtland temple. Financial problems brewing.

▶ 1836 July

- ▶ Smith left for the east, went to Salem, Mass. in search of treasures. Nothing found. (D&C, section 111)

▶ 1836 Nov.

- ▶ Smith established the Kirtland Safety Society Bank, but couldn't obtain a charter. Bank failed. Many members agitating against Smith.

▶ 1837

- ▶ A new edition of the Book of Mormon was published, with thousands of corrections in spelling and grammar. While most changes did not affect the meaning, a number of them did.

▶ 1837 Dec.

- ▶ Growing dissent among members over financial matters. Martin Harris excommunicated.

▶ 1838 Jan.

- ▶ Joseph fled Kirtland, and went to Far West, Mo., fleeing the wrath of the law and disgruntled members.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1838 April

- ▶ Oliver Cowdery excommunicated. David Whitmer withdrew his membership. The name of the church was changed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

▶ 1838 June

- ▶ Rigdon preached his famous "Salt Sermon," directed at those who had opposed Smith. Two days later, eighty Mormons signed a statement (the Danite Manifesto) warning the dissenters to "depart, or a more fatal calamity shall befall you." Mormons formed the Danites. Dissenters Whitmer, Cowdery, and others flee Far West.

▶ 1838 July 4th

- ▶ Rigdon preached another sermon of a similar nature, stating "And that mob that comes on us to disturb us; it shall be between us and them a war of extermination; for we will follow them till the last drop of their blood is spilled, or else they will have to exterminate us."

▶ 1838 Aug.

- ▶ Danites skirmish with anti-Mormons who try to prevent Mormons from voting at Gallatin. A civil war breaks out in four Missouri counties.



JOSEPH SMITH EQUATES HIMSELF TO MOHAMMED IN JULY, 1838

- ▶ “If the people will let us alone, we will preach the gospel in peace. But if they come on us to molest us, we will establish our religion by the sword. We will trample down our enemies and make it one gore of blood from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. I will be to this generation a second Mohammed, whose motto in treating for peace was the ‘Alcoran or the Sword.’ So shall it eventually be with us - ‘Joseph Smith or the Sword!’”

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1838 Oct. 25

- ▶ "Apostle David W. Patten is killed while leading Danites against the Missouri militia in the 'Battle of Crooked River.' Apostle Parley P. Pratt kills a militiaman, and wounds another who (while unconscious on the ground) is mutilated by enraged Danites."

▶ 1838 Oct. 27

- ▶ Missouri governor Lilburn Boggs issued the "extermination" order against the Mormons.

▶ 1838 Oct. 30

- ▶ 17 Mormons were massacred at Haun's Mill, Missouri, by non-Mormon militia, headed up by Sheriff Jennings of Caldwell County. Historians generally agree that the militia was unlikely to have known about Gov. Boggs edict.

▶ 1838 Oct. 31

- ▶ Smith surrendered to Missouri militia at Far West and was imprisoned. Spends months in Liberty Jail while awaiting trial.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1838-39

- ▶ Mormons are driven out of Missouri due to conflicts between them and the non- Mormons.

▶ 1839 April

- ▶ Smith escaped while being transferred to another county, fled to Illinois. Settlement of what was to become Nauvoo, Illinois started.

▶ 1840

- ▶ Mormon Church had about 17,000 members. Gov. of Illinois signed the Nauvoo charter, giving the city of Nauvoo extensive legal rights.

▶ 1841 Feb.

- ▶ Smith organized the Nauvoo Legion, which became the largest militia in the U.S.

▶ 1841 April

- ▶ Joseph Smith was secretly sealed to Louisa Beaman, usually listed as his first plural wife. Over the next 3 years he would marry at least 33 women in secret marriages. John C. Bennett joined Mormonism, was appointed an Assistant President of the Church, and mayor of Nauvoo. In the coming months various charges of immorality were raised against him. His defense was he was following the teachings of Joseph Smith regarding polygamy.

▶ 1842-44

- ▶ Joseph Smith, John Taylor and other members of the Mormon Church printed denials of polygamy in the newspaper, even when they were practicing it.

▶ 1842

- ▶ Smith published his "Book of Abraham" in the LDS newspaper, Times and Seasons. Also, an account of Smith's 1820 vision was published for the first time.

▶ 1842 March 15

- ▶ Smith became a Free Mason (History of the Church, v. 4, pp. 551-552)

▶ 1842 May 4

- ▶ Smith privately introduced the temple endowment. Women were not included until September 1843.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1842 May 6

- ▶ An assassination attempt is made on Missouri's ex-governor Lilburn W. Boggs, allegedly by former Danite and later member of the Council of Fifty Orrin Porter Rockwell.

▶ 1842 May 19

- ▶ Joseph Smith becomes Mayor of Nauvoo.

▶ 1842 Summer

- ▶ John C. Bennett published his expose of Mormon polygamy, *The History of the Saints*, and was excommunicated.

▶ 1843 April

- ▶ Joseph Smith prophesied "There are those of the rising generation who shall not taste death till Christ comes. . . . I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written—the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am eight-five years old."

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1843 May

- ▶ Smith "translated" a portion of the Kinderhook Plates, which were later shown to be forgeries, invented by non-Mormons to expose Smith's fraud.

▶ 1843 July

- ▶ Smith privately dictated a revelation authorizing the practice of polygamy, but it was not formally announced until 1852, and was not included in LDS scripture until 1876 (present day D&C 132.) The 1876 D&C no longer contained the 1835 section denouncing polygamy.

▶ 1843 Aug. 12

- ▶ Meeting in Hyrum Smith's office, Joseph Smith's revelation on plural marriage was read to the High Council. At least two members objected to the revelation.

▶ 1844

- ▶ Smith announced his candidacy for U.S. President.



THE KINDERHOOK PLATES

- ▶ With the Book of Mormon, Joseph claimed to have eleven witnesses who saw the gold plates. But Joseph was careful not to show the plates to the public. He did not allow anyone who was trained to detect forgery or who had studied ancient languages to examine the original plates. But this was not the case with the Kinderhook plates. These plates were publicly exhibited and many people had a chance to examine them. Both William Clayton and Brigham Young had the honor of tracing or making an outline of one of the pages in their journals. The first three presidents of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young and John Taylor, all believed the Kinderhook plates were real.

THE KINDERHOOK PLATES

- ▶ “John Taylor, the close personal friend of the Prophet – took the find seriously, and expressed implicit confidence in his editorial that the Prophet could give a translation of the plates. And this attitude the Church, continued to maintain...” (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 379, footnote)

▶ 1844 March

- ▶ He secretly established the theocratic Council of Fifty.

▶ 1844 April

- ▶ Smith was secretly anointed and ordained by the Council of Fifty as King, Priest, and Ruler over Israel on Earth.

▶ 1844 April 7

- ▶ Smith delivered his "King Follett" sermon on plurality of gods 1844 May 12
- ▶ Smith preached, "I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world."

HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, JR AS COMPILED BY SANDRA TANNER

▶ 1844 June 7

- ▶ The first and only issue of the Nauvoo Expositor was published. In it former church leaders, now dissenters, condemned Smith's secret polygamy, doctrine of plural gods, his political aspirations, and his ordination as king.

▶ 1844 June 10

- ▶ As mayor of Nauvoo, Smith condemned the Expositor as a public nuisance, printing libelous statements against him, and ordered its destruction. This caused a great uproar in the community.

▶ 1844 June 18

- ▶ Nauvoo placed under martial law.

▶ 1844 June 24

- ▶ Joseph and Hyrum Smith surrendered to civil authorities to stand trial for "riot and treason". The next day he was taken to Carthage.

▶ 1844 June 27

- ▶ While incarcerated at Carthage Jail, Joseph and Hyrum were allowed to have several visitors. Two men smuggled guns into them. At approximately 5 p.m. a mob stormed the jail. Joseph and Hyrum shot back, and Joseph wounded a couple of men, one of whom was later said to have died. The mob killed Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and wounded John Taylor.
- ▶ In the ensuing struggle to determine the rightful successor to Joseph Smith, Brigham Young gained the support of the majority of the apostles and became the next president of the church.

MORMONISM

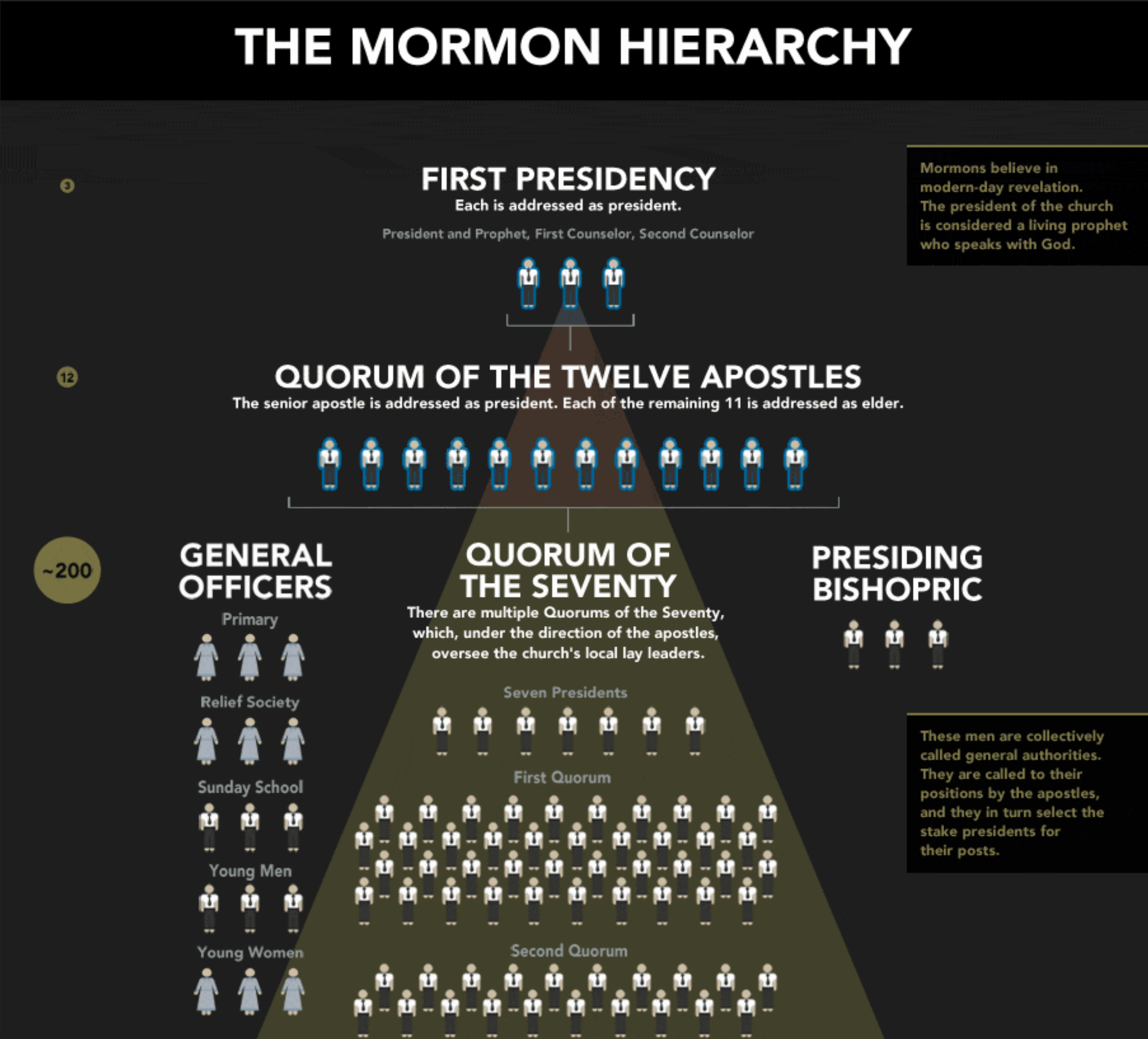
- ▶ History
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- ▶ Key Beliefs
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AUTHORIZED TEXTS

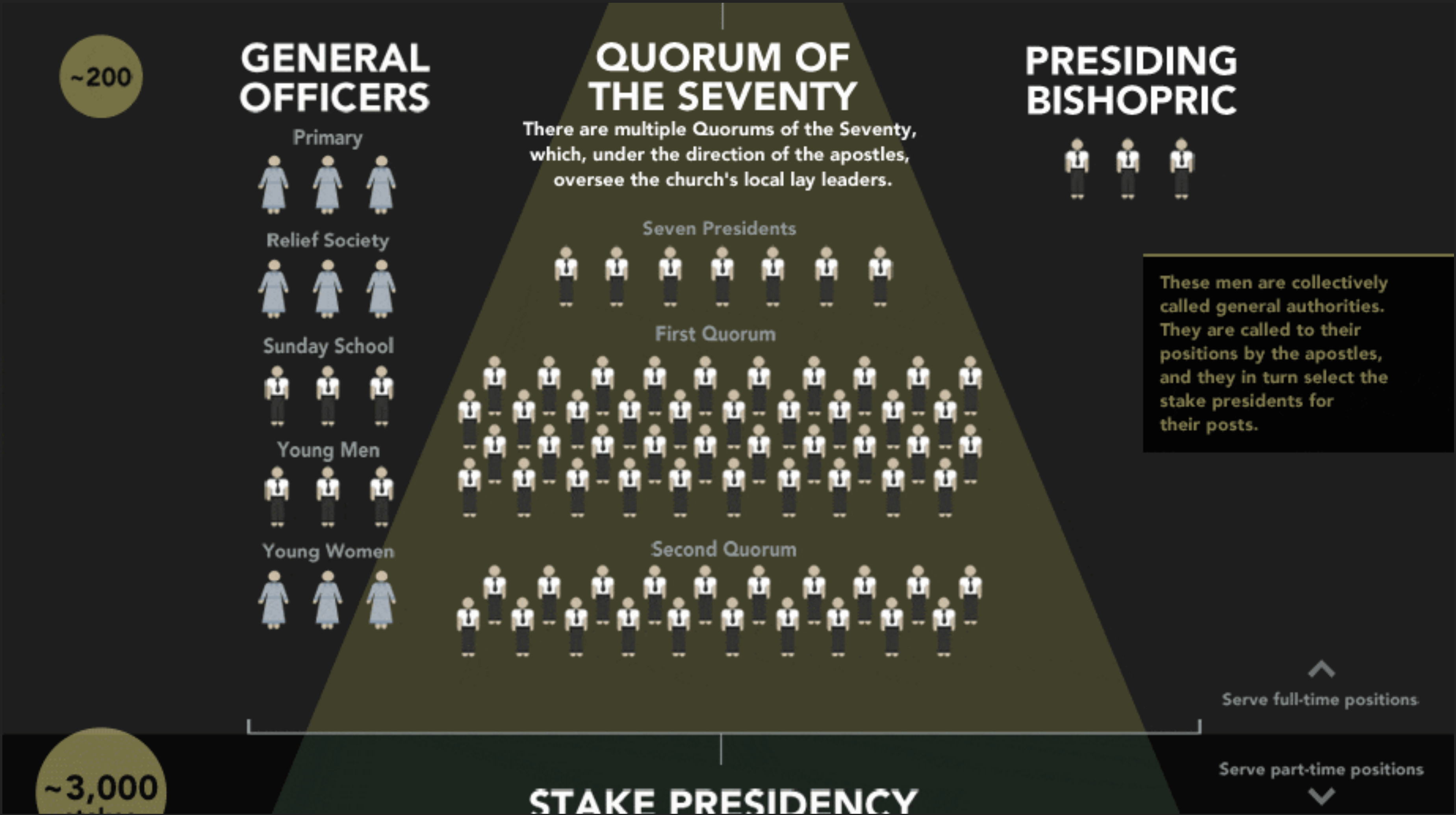
- ▶ KJV Bible
- ▶ Book of Mormon
- ▶ D&C (Doctrines and Covenants)
- ▶ Pearl of Great Price (Book of Moses, Book of Abraham)

DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY

- ▶ Authorized Texts
- ▶ Pronouncements of the President and his counsel (the First Presidency), and the Quorum of 12.



SPIRITUAL AND DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY



SPIRITUAL AND DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY



MORMONISM

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TRINITY

- ▶ “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”
- ▶ Three Gods—among others
- ▶ Separate personages with their own bodies
- ▶ Godhead = the group of divine rulers
- ▶ The Father and the Son are two physical beings
- ▶ The Father became a God before the Son and the Holy Ghost (two of his many sons)

TRINITY

- ▶ “Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow—three in one, and one in three! It is a curious organization.... All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God—he would be a giant or a monster” -Joseph Smith
- ▶ But....hold on a second....“Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God” (Alma 11:44).
- ▶ Mormons also claim that the doctrine of the Trinity originated from Christianity in its “Great Apostasy,” as a false doctrine that was not faithful to the Bible.

GOD THE FATHER

- ▶ Became God
- ▶ Not the only God
- ▶ Has a body of flesh and bones
- ▶ Is not omnipresent
- ▶ Has a wife, our heavenly Mother
- ▶ "As man is, God once was. As God is. man shall be."

JESUS CHRIST

- ▶ Jesus is one of billions of spirits who preexisted in Heaven before becoming human
- ▶ Jesus is one of three Gods ruling the universe (among other Gods that also exist)
- ▶ We are never supposed to pray directly to Jesus
- ▶ God is Jesus' "literal" father in the flesh—compromising the truth that Mary was a virgin
- ▶ Some of Jesus' statements must be revised according to Joseph Smith's revelations
- ▶ Jesus accomplished the Atonement primarily in the garden of Gethsemane
- ▶ Jesus by his resurrection assures immortality in some heavenly kingdom for virtually everyone
- ▶ Jesus returned to the earth to preach to the Nephites and start a separate church for them
- ▶ Jesus appeared to Joseph Smith, condemned all existing churches, and restored the true church

POLYGAMY

- ▶ Polygamy was established and practiced by the founder and supposed first prophet of the LDS Church, Joseph Smith.
- ▶ Joseph Smith lied about polygamy, including lying about it in scripture:
“Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy; we declare that we believe that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in the case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again.” (Removed from D&C)

POLYGAMY

- ▶ As practiced by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other LDS leaders, plural marriage was on any reasonable judgment both illegal and grossly immoral.
- ▶ LDS Church leaders continued the practice of plural marriage long after they supposedly “officially” ended it.
- ▶ Polygamous LDS splinter groups are simply being faithful to the teachings of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and John Taylor.
- ▶ Even now, LDS doctrine clearly allows for and even implies the likelihood of a return to polygamy, should it become legal. It would actually be more accurate to say that the LDS Church suspended polygamy than that it ended it. The LDS scriptures still contain statements teaching and justifying plural marriage as a divinely authorized institution—even stating that it is “an everlasting covenant” and that those who reject it will be “damned” (D&C 131:2-4; 132:1-6, 37-39, 60-66). Since these statements remain in LDS scripture, polygamy remains an issue for the LDS Church today.

SALVATION

- ▶ A general, unconditional salvation will be given to everyone whether they have faith in this life or not
- ▶ We must do everything we can to make ourselves worthy to receive God's grace for salvation
- ▶ Good works are the precondition of individual salvation (life in the Father's heavenly kingdom)
- ▶ You must do this to be saved:
 - ▶ have belief in Christ
 - ▶ be baptised (into the LDS Church)
 - ▶ keep all the commandments (including rules laid down by the LDS Church)
 - ▶ receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (by a Mormon laying hands on you)
 - ▶ depend on Christ's Atonement and God's grace to make you perfect

SALVATION

- ▶ “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ” (Moroni 10:32).
- ▶ “We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23).

AFTERLIFE

- ▶ Three heavenly kingdoms (celestial, terrestrial, and telestial)
- ▶ Only those who make it to the celestial kingdom will live in the Father's presence
- ▶ Four possible outcomes for all people: the three heavenly kingdoms and outer darkness
- ▶ Only a tiny number of persons who reject their spiritual "testimony" will go to outer darkness
- ▶ Those who reject Christ in this life may accept him in the spirit world—and even if they don't, they can suffer for a while in hell and then go to the telestial kingdom

REALMS OF DEITY
Spirit Life
FIRST ESTATE

FREE AGENCY

I'm going by the upper road,
For that still holds the sun;
I'm climbing through night's pastures
Where the starry rivers run;
If you should think to seek me
In my old dark abode,
You'll find this writing on the door:
"HE'S ON THE UPPER ROAD."
— Anon.

Duty

Word of Wisdom

Tithing

Loyalty

Morality

FREEWAY

Faith

Repentance

Baptism

Holy Ghost

STRAIGHT and NARROW - WAY

Not valiant in the
testimony of Jesus

The good & honorable
but blinded by the
craftiness of men

Those who died
without law

DETOUR
1000 Years
in Hell

The dishonest, liars,
sorcerers, adulterers,
and whoremongers.

BROADWAY

LOW WAY

CELESTIAL MARRIAGE

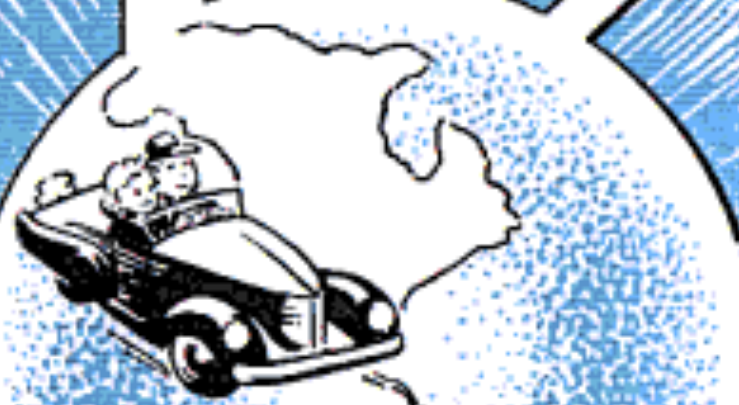
CELESTIAL
KINGDOM

TERRESTRIAL
KINGDOM

TELESTIAL
KINGDOM

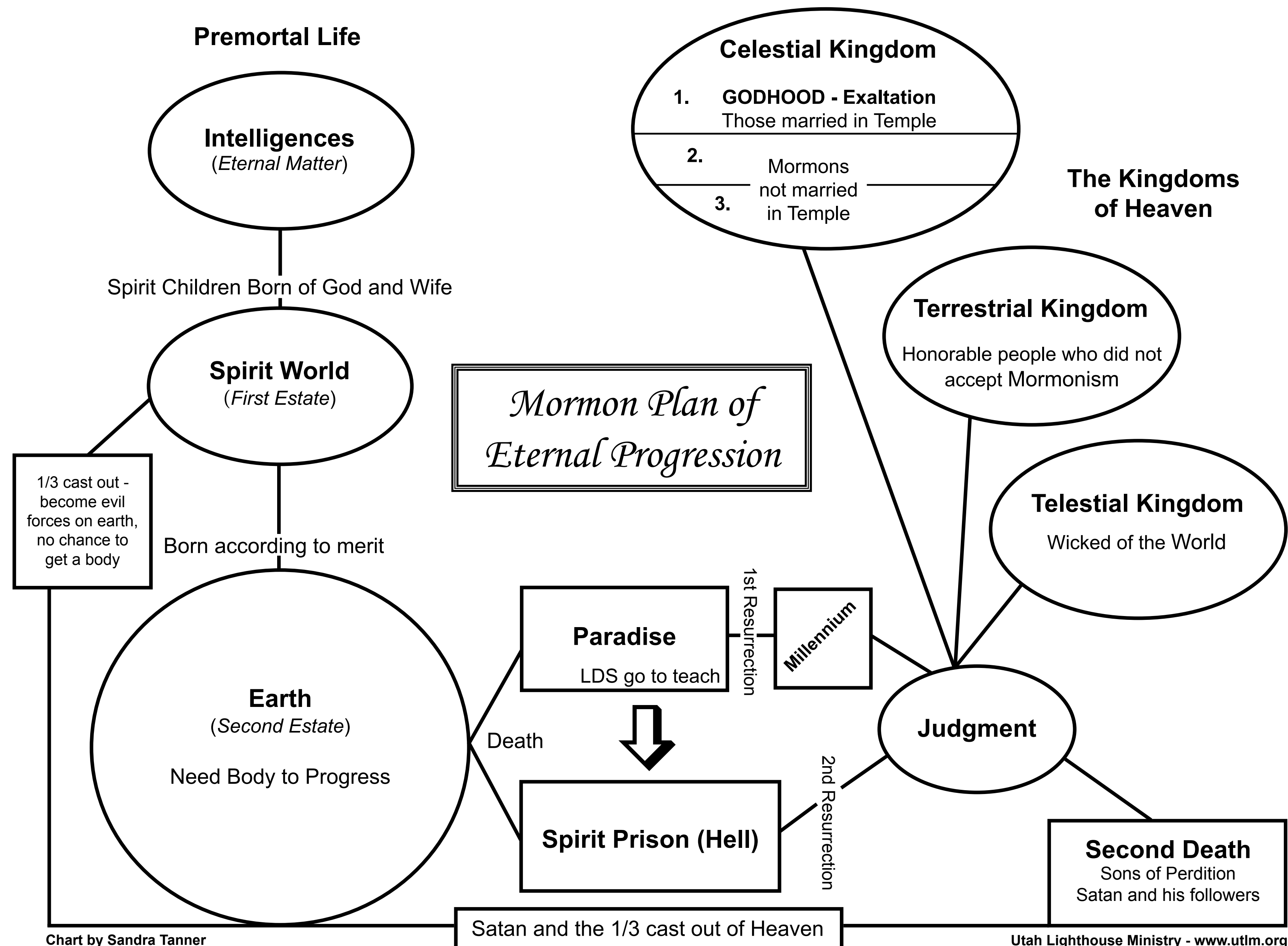


BIRTH



SECOND ESTATE

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BELIEFS



MORMONISM

- ▶ History
- ▶ **Sources of Theology**
- ▶ Key Beliefs
- ▶ What to do when they come knocking at your door

MORMONISM

- ▶ Mormons are known as sincere, spiritually devoted people, good neighbors, and responsible co-workers. They have qualities we admire when it comes to moral living and family values.
- ▶ Mormonism pays lip service to the Bible, but only uses it when and where it appears to support Mormon teachings.
- ▶ There is a complete lack of evidence from science, archeology, the Bible and history to support Mormon claims.

MORMONISM

- ▶ Be courteous and kind.
- ▶ If you are comfortable challenging on salvation by works, remember Moroni 10:32 and 2 Nephi 25:23.
- ▶ Introduce them to how we do things out of love for Christ, not to gain love from Christ.
- ▶ If you want to challenge them on the Trinity, remember the Mark 14 passage in which Christ declares, "I am." The authorities want to stone him because of blasphemy, equating himself to God the Father.



FINAL THOUGHT

**IT ALL HINGES ON THE
“PROPHET”**