

Controversial or Unique Mormon Beliefs - Detailed Summary

1. Jesus and Satan are Spirit Brothers

LDS Teaching: God the Father is the literal father of all spirit beings, including Jesus and Lucifer.

Source: Gospel Principles, LDS Manual:

"Every person who was ever born on earth was our spirit brother or sister in heaven. The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ... Lucifer, who was also a son of the morning..."

2. Mormon Men Can Become Gods

LDS Teaching: Faithful men can be exalted to godhood and rule over their own worlds.

Sources: Lorenzo Snows couplet: "As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may become."

Doctrine & Covenants 132:20: "Then shall they be gods... and they shall have all power."

3. God Has a Wife (Heavenly Mother)

LDS Teaching: God the Father is married to a Heavenly Mother, with whom He has spirit children.

Sources: The Family: A Proclamation to the World; LDS Hymn 'O My Father'

4. Husbands May Resurrect Wives

LDS Temple Teaching (implied): A husband may call his sealed wife by her temple name in the resurrection.

Source: Not found in published doctrine, but widely known through temple teachings and tradition.

5. Changes to the Book of Mormon

Fact: Over 3,900 changes have been made to the Book of Mormon since 1830.

Sources: 'Changes in the Book of Mormon' by Jerald and Sandra Tanner;

1 Nephi 11:18 originally read 'mother of God' but later changed to 'mother of the Son of God'.

6. Baptism for the Dead

LDS Teaching: Living members are baptized on behalf of the dead, giving them the chance to accept the gospel.

Source: Doctrine & Covenants 124:29

7. Black Men Banned from Priesthood Until 1978

Historical Policy: Black men were not allowed to hold the priesthood until 1978.

Sources: 1949 First Presidency statement; Official Declaration 2 in 1978.

8. Kolob the Star Nearest God

LDS Teaching: Kolob is a star or planet nearest to God's throne and used to measure time.

Source: Book of Abraham, Abraham 3:39

9. Adam-God Doctrine

Teaching by Brigham Young: Adam was God the Father and the literal father of our spirits and Jesus.

Sources: Journal of Discourses 1:50; later disavowed by LDS leaders like Spencer W. Kimball.

10. Conflicting First Vision Accounts

Fact: Joseph Smith gave multiple versions of his First Vision.

Sources: 1832 account only mentions Jesus; 1838 account includes both God the Father and Jesus.

All versions available on LDS.org.