

# A Warning to the Church: Echoes of Thyatira in Modern Doctrinal Divergences

## Introduction

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus addresses seven churches in Asia Minor, offering commendations, rebukes, and calls to repentance. Among these, the message to the church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18–29) stands out as particularly fitting for introducing this compilation of doctrinal contradictions between Mormonism (including the Book of Mormon) and the New Testament. Jesus, describing Himself as “the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass,” commends Thyatira for their works, love, service, faith, and patience, noting that their “last works are more than the first.” However, He rebukes them sharply for tolerating “that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.” This false prophetess leads believers into doctrinal and moral compromise, drawing parallels to how Mormonism accepts Joseph Smith as a true prophet despite teachings that diverge from New Testament doctrines.

Jesus warns of severe judgement on her and her followers unless they repent, emphasising the need to “hold fast what you have till I come” and promising rewards to those who overcome, including authority over nations and the morning star. Just as Thyatira was called to reject false prophetic influences that corrupted core truths, this document examines contradictions that arise from accepting additional revelations and prophets beyond the New Testament's sufficiency, urging discernment against such seductions in line with Jesus' exhortation: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Mormon perspectives are noted for balance, often viewing these as restorations of lost truths, but the focus highlights direct divergences. Archaeological claims are briefly addressed but de-emphasised, as they pertain more to historical validation than direct NT doctrinal contradictions.

## Compiled Contradictions Between Mormonism/Book of Mormon Doctrines and New Testament Doctrines

### 1. Nature of God (Monotheism vs. Plurality of Gods)

New Testament Doctrine: The New Testament affirms strict monotheism—one singular God. For example, in 1 Timothy 2:5 and John 1:1, the Greek text emphasises “one God”, with no allowance for multiple gods or progression to godhood.

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: Mormonism teaches a plurality of gods, with God the Father as an exalted man with a physical body, Jesus as His literal firstborn spirit child (along with all humans and even Lucifer as spirit siblings), and the potential for faithful humans to become gods (exaltation).

### 2. Salvation (By Grace Through Faith Alone vs. Grace After Works)

New Testament Doctrine: Salvation is presented as a gift of grace through faith, explicitly excluding human works (Ephesians 2:8–9, Romans 11:6).

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: Mormonism teaches salvation (general resurrection is universal, but exaltation to higher kingdoms requires faith plus works like baptism, temple ordinances, tithing, and obedience to laws). The Book of

Mormon states grace comes "after all we can do" (2 Nephi 25:23).

### **3. Marriage and the Afterlife (No Marriage in Resurrection vs. Eternal Marriage)**

New Testament Doctrine: Marriage is earthly and does not continue in the resurrection (Matthew 22:30).

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: Mormonism emphasises eternal marriage through temple sealings, where worthy couples remain married eternally.

### **4. Priesthood Authority (Universal Priesthood of Believers vs. Exclusive Hierarchical Priesthood)**

New Testament Doctrine: All believers form a royal priesthood without need for a separate ordained class (1 Peter 2:9).

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: Mormonism requires an exclusive Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthood, held only by worthy males.

### **5. Sufficiency of Scripture and No Additional Gospels (Scripture Completes the Believer vs. Need for Additional Revelations)**

New Testament Doctrine: The Scriptures are sufficient for doctrine and equipping believers (2 Timothy 3:16–17, Galatians 1:8).

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: Mormonism holds an open canon, with the Book of Mormon as "another testament of Jesus Christ" and ongoing revelations.

### **6. Racial or Ethnic Distinctions in Christ (Equality vs. Curses or Restrictions)**

New Testament Doctrine: In Christ, ethnic distinctions are erased (Galatians 3:28).

Mormon Doctrine Contrast: The Book of Mormon links dark skin to a divine curse, and the LDS Church restricted priesthood from those of African descent until 1978.

### **7. Birthplace of Jesus (Jerusalem vs. Bethlehem)**

New Testament Doctrine: Jesus was born specifically in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Alma 7:10 prophesies Jesus "shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers."

### **8. Duration of Darkness at Crucifixion (Three Days vs. Three Hours)**

New Testament Doctrine: Darkness covered the land for three hours during the crucifixion (Matthew 27:45).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Helaman 14:20,27 and 3 Nephi 8:3,23 describe three days of darkness.

### **9. High Priesthood Structure (Multiple High Priests Simultaneously vs. One High Priest at a Time)**

New Testament Doctrine: Only one high priest served at a time, with Jesus as the ultimate singular high priest (Hebrews 8:6–7, Matthew 26:3).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Mosiah 11:11, Alma 13:9–10, and Helaman 3:25 describe multiple high priests serving concurrently.

## **10. Quoting New Testament Passages Before They Were Written (Anachronistic Citations vs. Historical Sequence)**

New Testament Doctrine: NT texts were composed post-resurrection (e.g., 1 Corinthians 12:4–11).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Moroni 10:8–17 and Moroni 7:48 reproduce NT passages anachronistically.

## **11. Lord's Prayer Doxology (Inclusion of Later Addition vs. Absence in Original Manuscripts)**

New Testament Doctrine: The Lord's Prayer ends without a doxology in the earliest manuscripts (Matthew 6:13).

Book of Mormon Contrast: 3 Nephi 13:13 includes the full KJV doxology.

## **12. Misattribution of New Testament Commentary to Old Testament Prophecy (Blended Quotations vs. Distinct Sources)**

New Testament Doctrine: Acts 3:22–26 paraphrases Deuteronomy but adds unique elements.

Book of Mormon Contrast: 3 Nephi 20:23–26 presents Peter's NT additions as original prophecy.

## **13. Existence of the Church or Body of Christ (Pre-Resurrection Establishment vs. Post-Resurrection Formation)**

New Testament Doctrine: The church as the body of Christ forms after Jesus' resurrection (Ephesians 1:22–23).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Mosiah 18:17 and Mosiah 15:5 refer to "the church of God" and "body of Christ" before Jesus' birth.

## **14. Pre-Mortal Existence of Souls (No Pre-Existence vs. Spirit Children in Heaven)**

New Testament Doctrine: The NT does not teach pre-mortal existence (1 Corinthians 15:46, John 1:3).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Alma 13:3–5 and LDS theology teach pre-mortal spirit existence.

## **15. Eternal Progression and Exaltation (Unchanging God vs. Humans Becoming Gods)**

New Testament Doctrine: God and Christ are unchanging (Hebrews 13:8; Romans 8:17 refers to inheritance, not deification).

Book of Mormon Contrast: 3 Nephi 28:10, D&C 132:19–20 teach progression to god-like status.

## **16. Baptism for the Dead (Personal Baptism vs. Proxy Ordinances)**

New Testament Doctrine: Baptism is for the living; posthumous judgement follows death (Hebrews 9:27).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Doctrine and Covenants 128 allows proxy baptism for the dead.

## **17. Secret Combinations and Oaths (No Swearing Oaths vs. Sacred Covenants)**

New Testament Doctrine: Oaths are prohibited (Matthew 5:34–37).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Ether 8:14–19, Helaman 6:22–26, and LDS temple ceremonies involve sacred covenants.

## **18. Multiple Heavens or Degrees of Glory (Binary Afterlife vs. Three Kingdoms)**

New Testament Doctrine: Afterlife is binary—eternal life or punishment (Matthew 25:46).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Doctrine and Covenants 76 introduces three degrees of glory.

## 19. Location of Christ's Post-Resurrection Ministry (Limited to Judea vs. Americas Visit)

New Testament Doctrine: Jesus' post-resurrection appearances are limited (Acts 1:3).

Book of Mormon Contrast: 3 Nephi 11–26 describes Jesus visiting the Americas.

## 20. Polygamy (Monogamy Standard vs. Conditional Allowance)

New Testament Doctrine: Leaders should be monogamous (1 Timothy 3:2).

Book of Mormon Contrast: Jacob 2:24–27 condemns polygamy, but allows if God commands.

## 21. Archaeological and Historical Claims (Corroborated Settings vs. Unsubstantiated Civilisations)

New Testament Doctrine: NT settings align with historical evidence.

Book of Mormon Contrast: Describes pre-Columbian American civilisations lacking archaeological support.

## Mormon Contradiction Summary

No.	Topic	New Testament Doctrine	Mormon/Book of Mormon Doctrine	Key Contradiction
1	Nature of God	Strict monotheism; one God	Plurality of gods, God as an exalted man	Monotheism vs. polytheism
2	Salvation	By grace through faith alone	Grace after works, exaltation by effort	Salvation by faith vs. works-based salvation
3	Marriage and the Afterlife	No marriage in resurrection	Eternal marriage and procreation	Temporal marriage vs. eternal marriage
4	Priesthood Authority	Universal priesthood of believers	Exclusive Aaronic & Melchizedek priesthood	Universal vs. hierarchical priesthood
5	Sufficiency of Scripture	Scripture completes the believer	Need for additional revelations	Closed canon vs. open canon
6	Racial/Ethnic Distinctions	All are equal in Christ	Curses/restrictions based on race	Equality vs. distinctions
7	Birthplace of Jesus	Bethlehem	Jerusalem (land of forefathers)	Specific vs. general location
8	Darkness at Crucifixion	Three hours	Three days	Duration difference
9	High Priesthood Structure	One high priest at a time	Multiple high priests simultaneously	Singular vs. plural priesthood
10	Anachronistic NT Citations	NT written post-resurrection	Pre-NT texts citing NT passages	Historical sequence vs. anachronism
11	Lord's Prayer Doxology	Absent in originals	Included in BOM	Textual variant inclusion
12	NT Commentary as OT Prophecy	Distinct historical sources	Blended quotations in BOM	Misattribution
13	Existence of the Church	Post-resurrection formation	Pre-resurrection establishment	Chronology conflict
14	Pre-mortal Existence	No pre-existence of souls	Spirit children in heaven	Natural vs. spiritual order

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15	Eternal Progression/Exaltation	Unchanging God	Humans becoming gods	Divine nature vs. human progression
16	Baptism for the Dead	Personal baptism	Proxy ordinances for dead	Finality vs. posthumous rites
17	Secret Combinations/Oaths	No swearing oaths	Sacred covenants with secrecy	Openness vs. secrecy
18	Afterlife Structure	Binary afterlife	Three degrees of glory	Binary vs. graded afterlife
19	Location of Christ's Ministry	Limited to Judea	Visit to Americas	Regional vs. global appearances
20	Polygamy	Monogamy standard	Conditional allowance	Monogamy vs. polygamy
21	Archaeological Claims	Corroborated settings	Unsubstantiated BOM civilisations	Supported vs. unsupported history

From the Mormon perspective, their doctrines align with the NT by restoring "plain and precious" truths lost from the original texts due to transmission errors, as they believe the Bible is reliable only insofar as translated correctly. However, the NT Greek does not indicate such incompleteness or need for additions. These contrasts highlight fundamental divergences based solely on the original NT language. For a comprehensive view, consulting full texts is recommended, as Mormons maintain the BOM complements the NT despite these apparent conflicts.