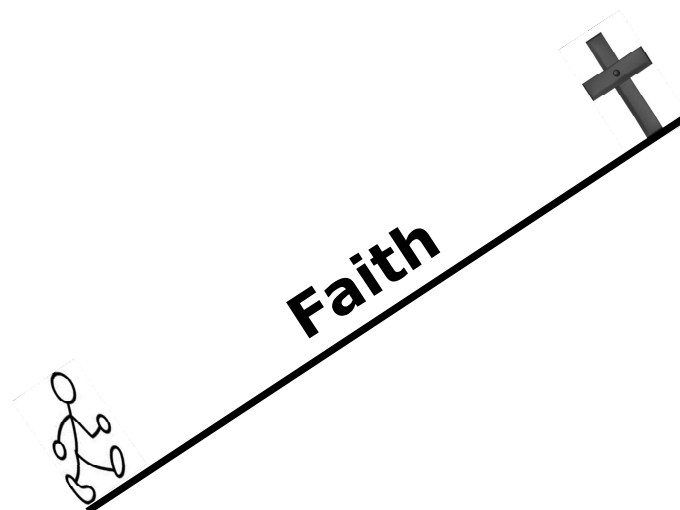


The above diagram represents ten of the most common obstacles both biblical Christians and Latter-day Saints encounter when attempting to understand, share and defend their respective faiths. Any number of these “rocks” may come into play during the course of dialog or debate.

Note that the path to the cross for Latter-day Saints is on an incline. This is because many LDS will suffer incredible loss (e.g. family, friends, social acceptance/status, financial security, etc.) for exchanging the LDS gospel of *works* for the biblical gospel of *grace*.

The below diagram represents the ideal sharing scenario—all potential “rocks” have been cleared from the road to redemption. In other words, the only thing standing between Latter-day Saints and being forgiven of ALL their sins (besides the potential losses mentioned above) is pure and simple faith in the FINISHED work of Christ on the cross and acceptance of His absolutely free gift of salvation.



Rock #4 Power Point

Bible



...becomes a rock on the road to redemption when LDS remain unaware of Satan's M.O. to discredit and contradict it!

Latter-day Saints often ask: "Do you believe in continuing revelation?" or "Do you believe God speaks through His prophets today?" The candid truth is that nowhere in the Bible does God say He will NEVER send another prophet—He certainly could. However, God DOES command us to "test" alleged prophets "because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1 NIV).

Rock #3 reveals an incontrovertible truth concerning the testing of prophets: The modern revelation of *false prophets* and their "damnable heresies" from which it is spawned (2 Pt. 2:1 KJV) contradict God's previous revelation in the Bible. Therefore, *false prophets* must discredit **the reliability and/or sufficiency** of that which exposes them, namely, the Bible.

The aim of this lesson in Rock #4 is to demonstrate that the M.O. of *false prophets* is the brainchild of none other than Satan and to draw dangerous parallels between his tactics and the teachings and methods of the LDS Church.

Satan's Modus Operandi (M.O.)



Satan Discredits & Then Contradicts God's Word!

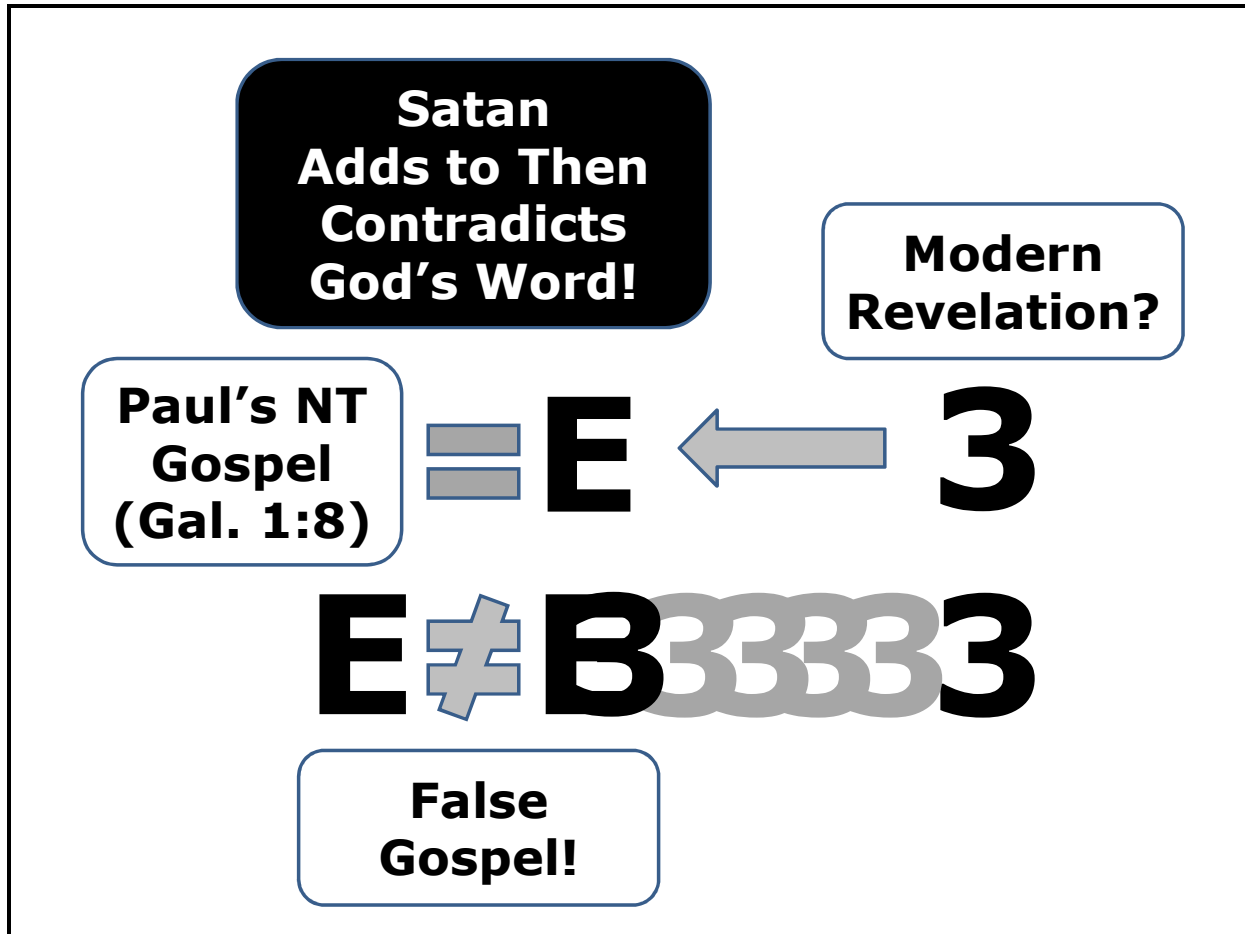


² **The woman** said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,
³ but **God did say**, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, **or you will die.**'" (Ge. 3:2-3 NIV; see also 2:16-17)

¹ Now **the serpent was more crafty** than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God really say**, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
⁴ "**You will not surely die,**" the serpent said to the woman. (Ge. 3:1, 4 NIV)

- Satan and his *false prophets* and false teachers **contradict** God's Word in the Bible.
- God's Word in the Bible **exposes** their contradictions.
- Therefore, Satan and his *false prophets* and false teachers must **discredit** God's Word in the Bible to hide their contradictions. (See above—"Did God really say ... ?")
- **Question:** Does Joseph Smith **discredit** the Bible? (See LDS Article of Faith 8 on **page 3.4 of Rock #3** and 1 Nephi 13:28 on **page 4.7** below.)

Satan's Modus Operandi (M.O.)



- Satan and his *false prophets* and false teachers **add to** and then **contradict** God's Word in the Bible (see by implication Gal. 2:6; Rev. 22:18).
- God's Word in the Bible **exposes** their contradictions.
- Therefore, Satan and his *false prophets* and false teachers must **discredit** God's Word in the Bible to hide their contradictions.
- **Question:** Does Joseph Smith **add to** and **contradict** the Bible? (See Joseph Smith's translation of Ro. 4:16 below.)

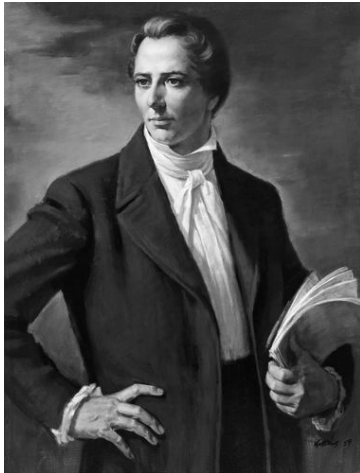
Paul's NT Gospel Is "of Faith" Not Works

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 **But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness**.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 16 **Therefore it [justification] is of faith, that it might be by grace**; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed [of Abraham].
(Romans 4:2-5, 14, 16a KJV)

- Paul places *faith unto justification and righteousness* in opposition to works/obedience (see vv. 2-3, 5, 14 and 16).
- Paul places *grace unto justification* in opposition to works/obedience (see vv. 4, 16).

Joseph Smith Adds to & Then Contradicts Paul's NT Gospel "of Faith"



16 Therefore, ye are justified of faith and works, through grace, to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed. (Romans 4:16a JST)

Joseph Smith's "New Translation" of the Bible
(available at www.amazon.com)

We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

Joseph Smith, 1st LDS Prophet & President
Article of Faith 3 in *The Pearl of Great Price*

Did Joseph Smith Complete His "New Translation" of the Bible?

In January 1832 Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon were expressly commanded by the LORD to "continue the work of 'translation until it be finished'" (Doctrine & Covenants 73:4b).

In March 1833 Joseph was told by the LORD: "When you have finished the translation of the prophets, you shall from henceforth preside over the affairs of the church and the school" (Doctrine and Covenants 90:13).

On February 2, 1833, Joseph Smith wrote: "I completed the translation and review of the New Testament ... and sealed it up, no more to be opened till it arrived in Zion" (*Times and Seasons* 5:723).

On July 2, 1833, Joseph Smith wrote: "We this day finished the translation of the [Old Testament] scriptures, for which we return our gratitude to our heavenly Father" (*History of the Church, Period 1, Vol. 1, p. 368*).

Four Important Changes to the Book of Mormon

1830 Edition

" ... that the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father" (1 Nephi, p. 32)

" ... Behold, the virgin which thou seest is the mother of God" (1 Nephi, p. 25)

" ... Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father!" (1 Nephi, p. 25)

" ... king Benjamin had a gift from God" (Mosiah, p. 200)

Current Edition

" ... that the Lamb of God is **the Son of** the Eternal Father" (1 Nephi 13:40)

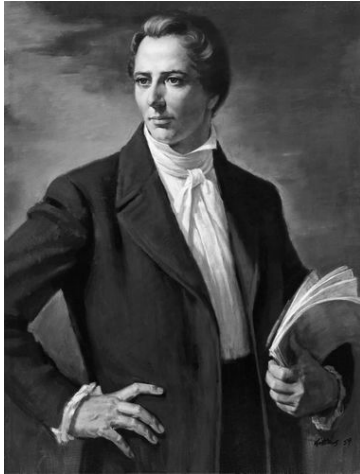
" ... Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of **the Son of** God (1 Nephi 11:18)

" ... Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even **the Son of** the Eternal Father!" (1 Nephi 11:21)

" ... king **Mosiah** had a gift from God" (Mosiah 21:28)

- These changes may be verified at www.inephi.com and in *Joseph Smith Begins His Work—Book of Mormon 1830 First Edition Reproduced from Uncut Sheets* by Wilford Wood (1958), available at www.amazon.com. Both of these works are photographs and copies, respectively, of the 1830 first edition of the Book of Mormon.

Joseph Smith Discredits the Sufficiency of the Bible



Wherefore, thou seest that after the book [the Bible] hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb. (1 Nephi 13:28)

Joseph Smith, Translator of the Book of Mormon

**“the book of Samuel the seer,”
“Nathan the prophet,” and
“Gad the seer”
(1 Ch. 29:29 KJV)**

**“the book of
Jehu”
(2 Ch. 20:34 KJV)**

**“the Book of
Jashar”
(Jos. 10:13 KJV)**



**The Book of
“Enoch”
(Jude 14)**

**“I wrote you in
an epistle”
(1 Co. 5:9 KJV)**

**“the book of the wars
of the LORD”
(Nu. 21:14 KJV)**

- It does not follow that because the Bible mentions “books” they are by necessity inspired Scripture that is missing. Even if Scripture was missing, it would, by its very nature, NEVER contradict the biblical Scripture *we do have*.
- NT writers also quote from pagan Greek philosophers (see Titus 1:12), but this does not make them and their writings biblical prophets and Scripture, respectively.
- The notion of missing biblical Scripture (1) questions God’s ability to preserve His Word (see Mt. 24:35; 1 Pt. 1:24-25; Isa. 40:7-8 below) and (2) fits Satan’s M.O. of discrediting *the sufficiency* of God’s Word in the Bible.
- **Question:** Why does Joseph Smith’s Book of Mormon NOT contain any of these “plain and precious” books if it “contains ... the fulness [*sic*] of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also” (D&C 20:9)?

God's Word on the Indelibility of God's Word

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my [Jesus'] words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35 NIV)

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass witherith, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (1 Peter 1:24-25 KJV)

- **Question:** How can the Book of Mormon *restore* the "fulness [*sic*] of the gospel" (D&C 20:9) if the apostle Peter (quoting the prophet Isaiah in the OT [Isa. 40:7-8]) declares in the NT that "the word which by the gospel is preached" "endureth for ever" in contrast to the flower that "falleth away"?

Why a Modern Translation of the Bible Is Helpful

KJV	Verse	Hebrew/Greek	NIV	NASB	NKJV
"meteyard"	Leviticus 19:35	<i>middâ</i>	"length"	"measurement"	"length"
"green withs"	Judges 16:7	<i>lah yeter</i>	"fresh thongs"	"fresh cords"	"fresh bowstrings"
"mean man"	Isaiah 2:9; 5:15	<i>ādām</i>	"man"	"common man"	"people"
"discomfited"	Isaiah 31:8	<i>mas</i>	"forced labor"	"forced laborers"	"forced labor"
"dromedary"	Jeremiah 2:23	<i>bikrâ</i>	"she-camel"	"camel"	"dromedary"
"jangling"	1 Timothy 1:6	<i>mataiologia</i>	"meaningless talk"	"fruitless discussion"	"idle talk"

- **KJV** (King James Version)–first published in 1611; 1769 edition used above
- **NIV** (New International Version)–NT first published in 1973; the NT and OT published in 1978; revised in 1983
- **NASB** (New American Standard Bible)–first published in 1977; 1995 edition used above
- **NKJV** (New King James Version)–NT first published in 1979; the NT and OT published in 1980