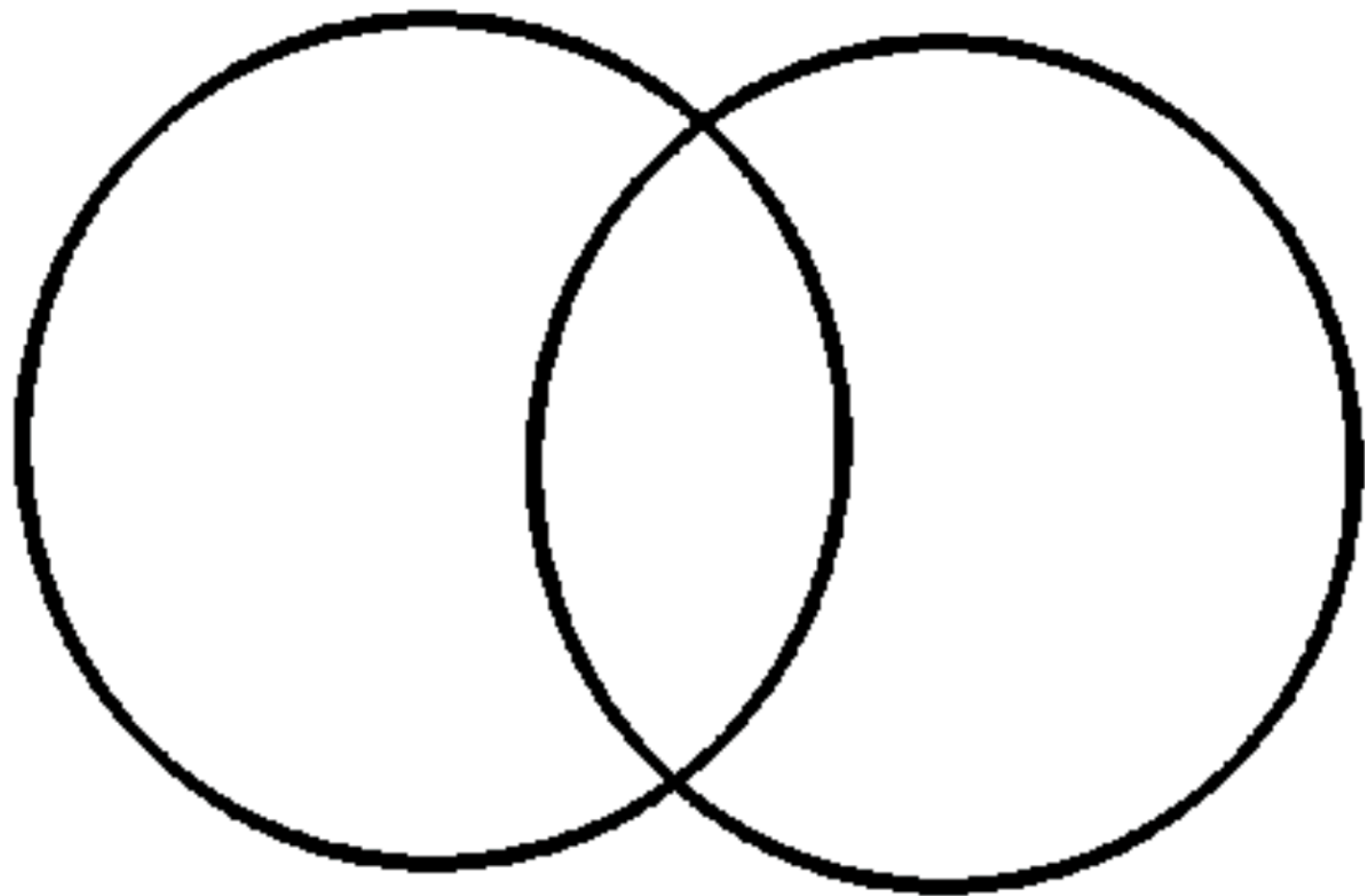
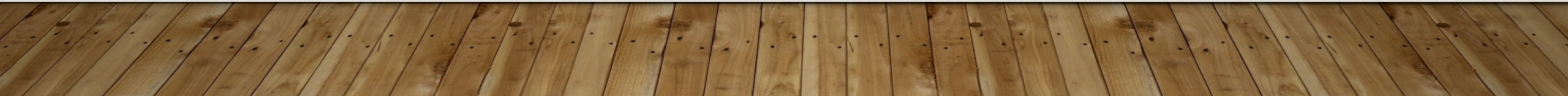


**LOVING YOUR LDS
NEIGHBOR**

A

B





AT RATIO CHRISTI....

To all who are weary and need rest

To all who mourn and need comfort

To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares

To all who fail and need strength

To all who sin and need a savior

To all who hunger and thirst for righteousness

To all who have questions and want answers about spiritual things

To all who seek a safe place to ask questions and pursue truth

And to whoever else will come

Ratio Christi at The U opens wide her doors and offers welcome

In the name of the Lord Jesus

Ask Good Questions ---- Seek Good Answers

QUESTIONS

- When you think about engaging with someone in a different religion how do you feel?
 - Why?
- What is the main reason you don't have more conversations with people of different religions?
- What has been your experience engaging with dialogue with “Mormons”?
- Why do you want to learn how to love your “Mormon” neighbors better?
 - What does loving them better look like to you?

HOW DO WE LOVE SOMEONE WELL?

- Care for them – help them meet their needs
- Be there for them in times of need
- Be their friend
- Tell them the truth
 - How do you love a drug addict?
 - How do you love your friend who is dating a terrible person?
 - How do you love someone who is destroying themselves with bad habits?
 - How do you love someone that believes false things about reality?

WHAT IS TRUTH?

- Truth is that which corresponds to reality
 - Sincerity is not a test for truth
 - Believing something doesn't make it true
- Logically two contradictory things cannot both be true.
 - Either Joe Biden is the President or he isn't
 - Either Washington D.C. is the capital of the United States or it isn't
 - Either Jesus died on the cross or he didn't
- Christianity (and all religions) is making objective truth claims about reality that is either true or false.
 - Stop relativizing your faith!!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

- If Christianity is viewed as a house. What views put us in the house and what views take us outside the house?
- What are the essentials of the Christian worldview? What are the non-essentials.
- With other religions - It's not the similarities that matter, it is the differences.



Coeexist

C O N F R A D I C T

THEY CAN'T ALL BE TRUE

WWW.CROSSEXAMINED.ORG

“MORMONS”

- Mormons have a different view of Truth, God, Man, Jesus, Gospel, the Bible.
 - They teach a FALSE GOSPEL that CANNOT save
 - External behavior modification (moralism) vs. The Biblical Gospel
- Mormons are NOT our enemies. The Lost are NOT our enemies
 - We should think of them like POWs
 - Compassion and Love
- If you love the TRUE GOSPEL it should break your heart to meet someone who has given their life to a FALSE GOSPEL
- We love them enough to tell them the truth – in LOVE

IN EVANGELISM TO THE LDS WE FOCUS ON:

- Truth
- God's Nature
- Jesus
- Reliability of the Bible – New Testament Especially
- The Gospel

MORMONS BELIEVE THEY ARE THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH

- First Vision – “I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight, that those professors were all corrupt, that “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”
- The Book of Mormon condemns Christianity as “that great and abominable church” and “the whore of all the earth” whose founder is Satan. 1 Nephi 22:13; 13:5-6
- Mormons believe they are the only true Christians
 - That is why there had to be a restoration, not a reformation

WHAT IS TRUTH & HOW DO I KNOW IT? WHAT ABOUT RELIGIOUS CLAIMS?

- “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true. And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.” Moroni 10:4-5
- “In Mormon epistemology good reasons are replaced with feelings in the form of a personal testimony. How do Mormons know their scripture, prophet, and church are true? Because of their testimony. They’ve prayed about these matters and received positive feelings. This justification claimed by Mormons is usually the only rationale they can provide.” Brett Kunkle

WHAT IS TRUTH & HOW DO I KNOW IT? WHAT ABOUT RELIGIOUS CLAIMS?

- Do we use this method of knowing in any other area of life?
 - Do you pray about whether Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States?
- Problems with relying solely on personal experience
 - Have your feelings ever been wrong?
 - Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it?”
 - What about contradicting personal experiences?
- Christian view of knowledge
 - Truth is that which corresponds to reality.
 - Acts 17 – Bereans “...and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.”

GOD'S NATURE MORMON VIEW

- God the Father was once a man before he became God and has a physical body
 - “I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see.” Joseph Smith – King Follet discourse
 - “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s . . .” D&C 130:22
 - “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be.” Lorenzo Snow
- The Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three separate gods
 - “I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit, and these three constitute personages and three Gods.” Joseph Smith

GOD'S NATURE

- The Mormon view is polytheistic.
- The Christian view:
 - There is only one God – (Isaiah 43:10)
 - God is a Trinitarian being – (Isaiah 45:22; John 1:1; John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Samuel 23:2-3)
 - God the father was never a man – (Psalm 90:2)
 - God is spirit - (John 4:24)
 - God the father has always been God – (Psalm 90:2)
- “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.
...Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.
...We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God." A.W.Tozer

JESUS' NATURE MORMON VIEW

- Jesus is the literal first-born son of the Heavenly Father and is the older spirit-brother of Lucifer
 - “Long before you were born, a program was developed by your creators. . .The principle personalities in this great drama were a Father Elohim. . .and his two sons, Lucifer and Jehovah.”
- Jesus had to progress to godhood. He was not eternally a god.
 - “And I, John, saw that he [Jesus] received not of the fullness at the first, but received grace for grace. And he received not the fullness at first, but continued from grace to grace, until he received a fullness” D&C 93:12-13

JESUS' NATURE

- The Christian view:
 - Jesus always existed and Created all things (Colossians 1:15-17)
 - Jesus is the 2nd person of the Trinity – (John 1:1; John 10:30)
- The LDS also have a different view of the atonement – “The Savior atoned for our sins by suffering in Gethsemane and by giving His life on the cross. It is impossible for us to fully understand how He suffered for all of our sins. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the weight of our sins caused Him to feel such agony that He bled from every pore (see [D&C 19:18–19](#)). Later, as He hung upon the cross, Jesus suffered painful death by one of the most-cruel methods known to man. Gospel Principles Ch. 12

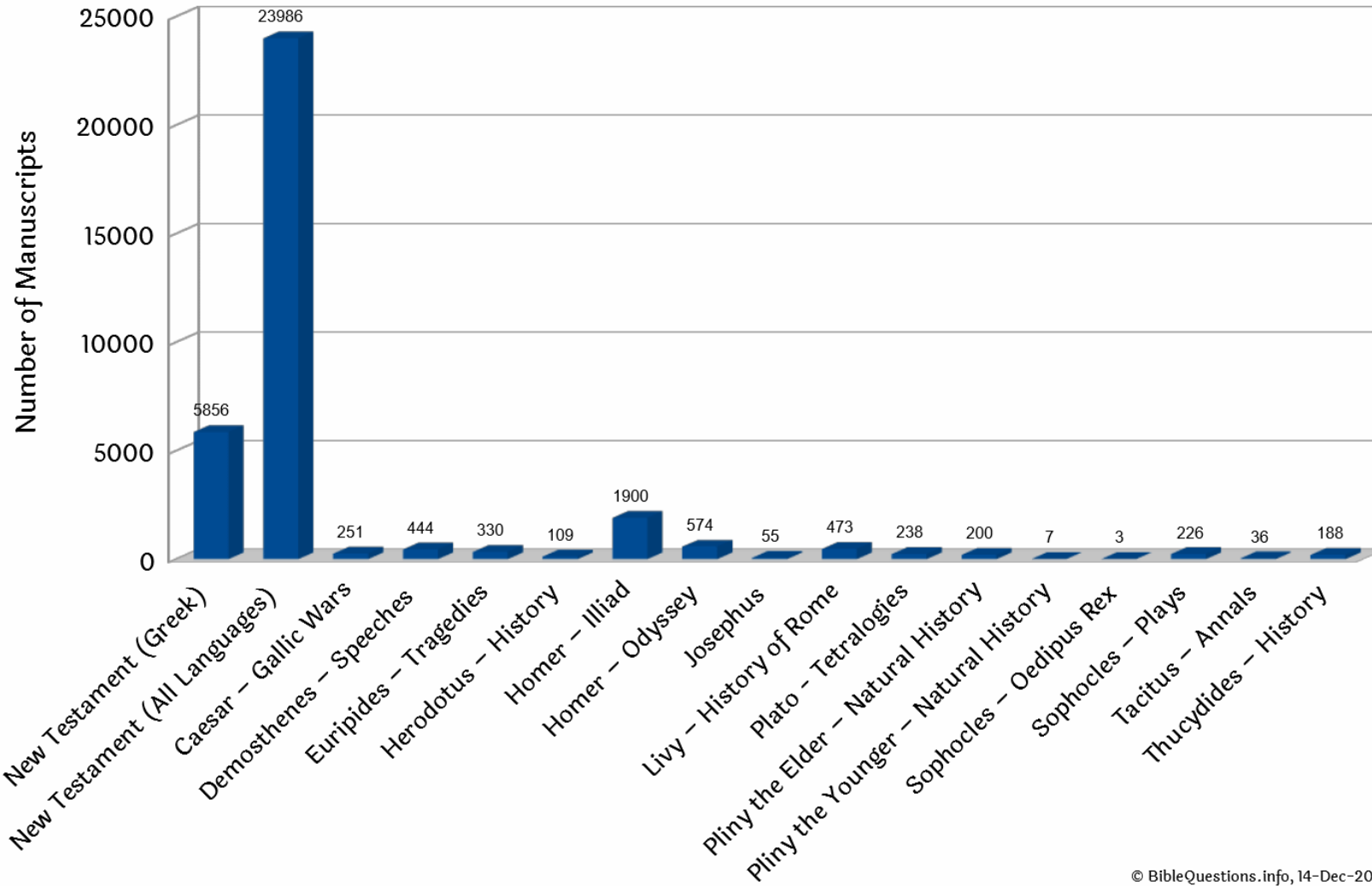
RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

- The LDS Standard Works:
 - The Book of Mormon
 - The Doctrine and Covenants
 - The Pearl of Great Price
 - The Bible
- 1 Nephi 13:28 – claims that after the Bible had gone “through the hands of the great and abominable church” there were “many plain and precious things taken away from the book..”
- According to Article 8 of the “Articles of Faith” - Mormons believe the Bible to be the word of God “as far as it is translated correctly.”

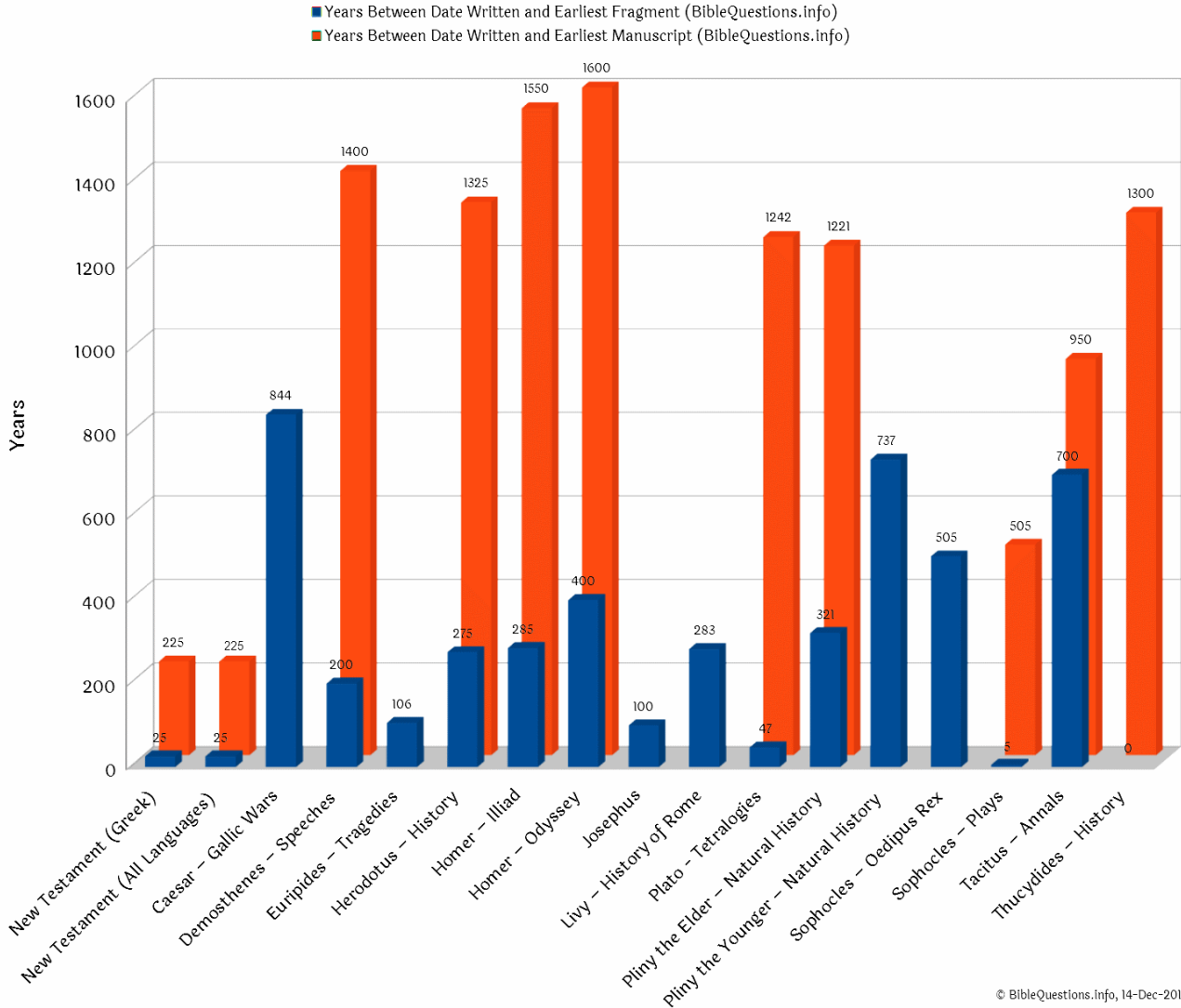
RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – CAN THE BIBLE BE TRUSTED?

- The LDS will use the telephone game as a paradigm to think about how the Bible came to us.
 - The telephone game is discussing the transmission of the text – not translations.
- The telephone game is not an accurate description of the transmission of the text.
 - How many manuscript copies do we have?
 - New Testament - Over 5,700 Greek and over 15,000 in other languages.
 - Old Testament – Dead Sea Scrolls
 - How close in time are the manuscript copies to the original?
 - We have 124 total manuscripts within 300 years of the composition of the New Testament.

Number of Manuscripts for Ancient Works

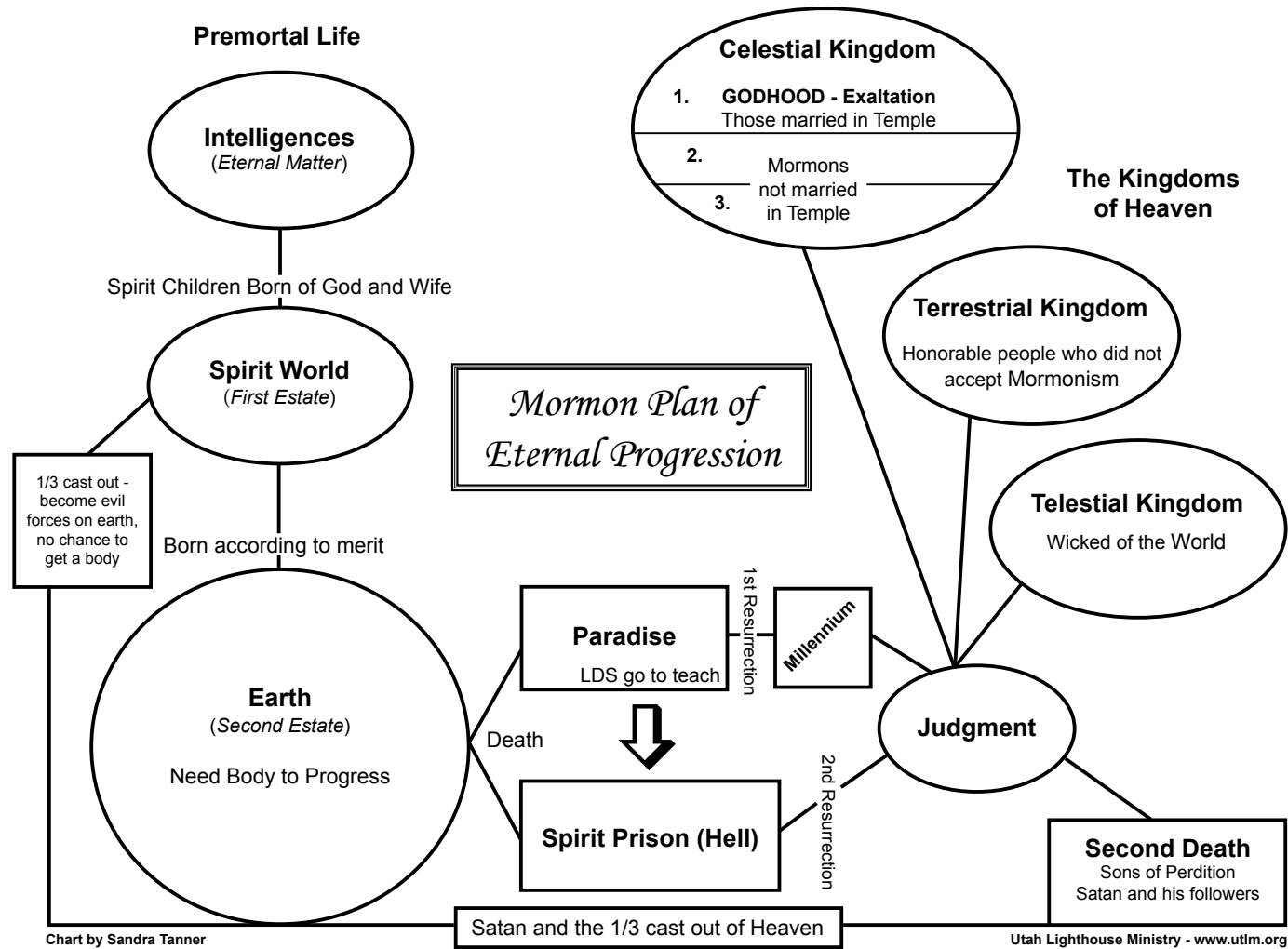


Years Between Date Written and Earliest Fragment or Manuscript



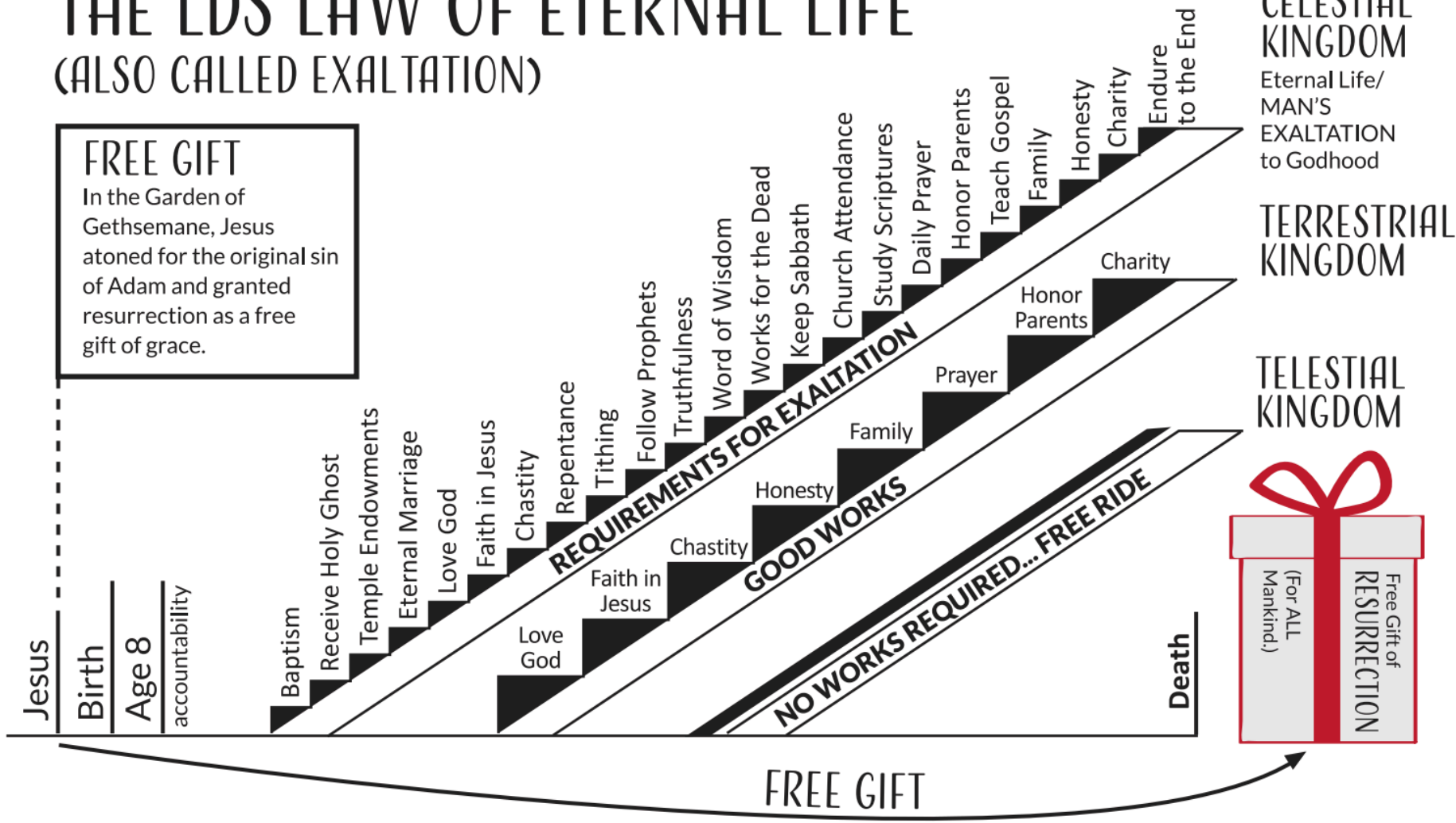
THE MORMON GOSPEL SALVATION OR EXALTATION?

- The LDS will say that we are all saved by Grace. For them salvation is a general term that simply means resurrection from the dead – and everyone gets raised.
- “Immortality [general salvation] and eternal life [individual salvation] are two separate things. . . Every man shall receive immortality, whether he be good, bad, or indifferent, for the resurrection from the dead shall come to all. Eternal life is . . . something in addition. None shall receive eternal life save it be those who keep the commands of the Lord and are entitled thus to enter into his presence. . . That is eternal life, to dwell in the presence of the Father and receive exaltation from him.” Joseph Fielding Smith
- “Here, then is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God. And you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation.” Joseph Smith



THE LDS LAW OF ETERNAL LIFE (ALSO CALLED EXALTATION)

FREE GIFT
 In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus atoned for the original sin of Adam and granted resurrection as a free gift of grace.



THE BIBLICAL GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

FREE GIFT

Jesus purchased the free gift of Eternal Life for mankind through his death on the cross.



FREE GIFT

Birth

Salvation

Love

Self Control

Honesty

Prayer

Charity

Patience

Selfless-ness

Joy

Chastity

Death

ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS BY FAITH RECEIVE THIS FREE GIFT

Gratitude produces good works that
EXALT JESUS!



Resurrection to
ETERNAL LIFE

OR

Resurrection to
DEATH
& ETERNAL
SEPARATION

THE TRUE GOSPEL

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

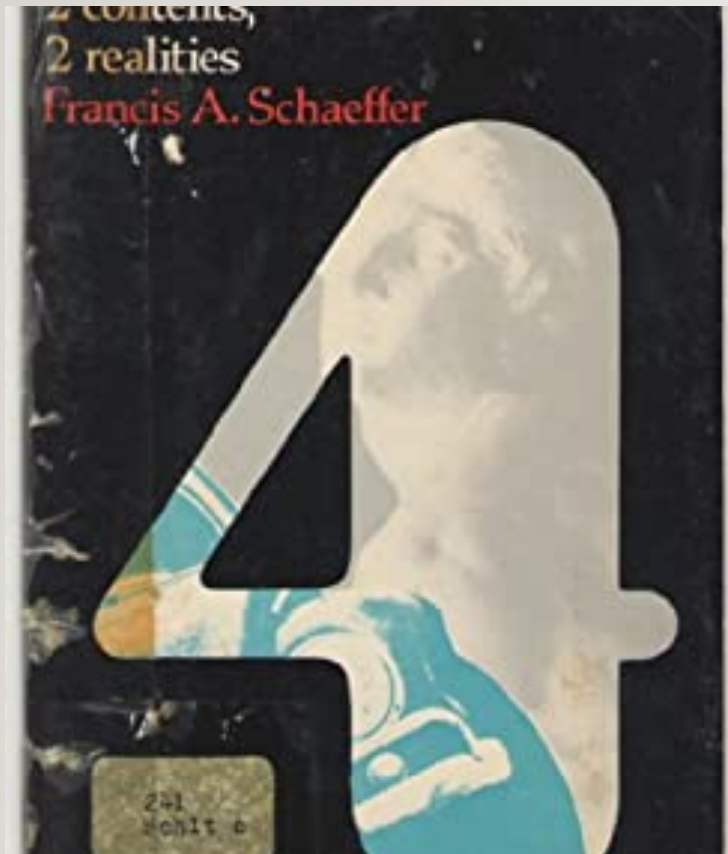
Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Galatians 2:16 – yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

THE JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION

Romans 4:5 - And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

- Joseph Smith Translation - But to him that *seeketh not to be justified by the law of works*, but believeth on him who justifieth **not** the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.



SOUND DOCTRINE

HONEST ANSWERS TO HONEST
QUESTIONS

TRUE SPIRITUALITY

BEAUTY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

PLAN FOR THE CLASS

- Why these conversations can be so frustrating and how to fix that?
- Tactics in having these conversations.
- Deep dive on the difference between the Mormon Gospel and the Biblical Gospel.
- Some good conversation topics and some topics to avoid.
- Resources for further study
- Share our vision for ministry in Utah County and how you can come alongside us

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
FAITH
TO BE AN
Atheist





TUES, OCT 18


7:00 PM - 9:00 PM MT




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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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