

*Joseph Smith*, by Robert V. Remini, Thorndike Press, 2002

If I were Joseph Smith and had the spiritual experiences he supposedly had, the Word of God as revealed in the Bible would have been able to keep me true to Him (2 Corinthians 10:5). Joseph Smith was disobedient. Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35b). Below I have listed areas in which Smith did not heed the Bible.

Remini, as an objective historian, calls Smith a decent man and writes a book that is sympathetic to him and pleasing to the Mormons. That's fine. He told us that up front. However, he has an illogical conclusion: don't mix religion and politics, like a secular society would eliminate imperfect mankind. He blames the forces released by the Second Great Awakening for the violence between Smith and local governments. This is a rewriting of history.

Nineteenth-century society thought *restricting* religion was the danger and that advocating *against* the concept of a providential God would release harmful forces, or unchain the tiger, as by Ben Franklin put it. "[T]he motives of religion ... restrain [a great portion of mankind] from vice,... support their virtue, and retain them in the practice of it till it becomes habitual, which is the great point for its security.... If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be if without it...."  
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Remini concludes his book with a warning against President Bush's plan of allowing federal funding for religious groups to serve social needs and with praise for the global recognition and acceptance of the Mormons. Like I said, an illogical conclusion. I wonder if puts modern-day sensibilities in his biography of Andrew Jackson or esteems the ideals this country was founded on (Jeremiah 6:16).

Revelations to Joseph Smith which depart from the revelation given in the Bible: (Bible verses are given at the end of this report.)

1. Since Jesus saves to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25), there is no need for anything else.
2. There is no other gospel other than Jesus' (Galatians 1:8,12). Joseph Smith shouldn't have believed even a messenger of God telling him different. In turn, no one should believe Smith.
3. The Book of Mormon supplements Revelation. Its author and adherents are subject to dire consequences (Revelation 22:18).
4. Jesus is our priest after the order of Melchisedec (Hebrews 7:21), not Joseph Smith.
5. Joseph Smith had no authority to be the law (Romans 13:1).
6. There is not more than one kingdom for our eternal home (John 14:2; Revelation 21:23- 27), and we aren't rewarded with kingdoms (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

7. We won't have various levels of glory in Heaven (Romans 3:23).
8. We don't need a building to receive from God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19).
9. We aren't saved by obedience to the law (Romans 8:3,4) or water baptism (1 Peter 3:21).
10. We don't need someone to lay hands on us to receive the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; Matthew 3:11).
11. The Christian faith allows for new revelation, but it's never contrary to what God has already said. The new covenant Jesus brought was prophesied before He mediated it. What Smith brought was heresy (Ephesians 1:17; Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 12:24).
12. The so-called "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" does not restore the church and the gospel as revealed in the Bible, but in fact fundamentally and dramatically departs from it. (For instance, Joseph Smith claims God is only one in a succession of gods; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are gods; our intelligence matches God's.)
13. God would not insist on a doctrine of polygamy contrary to His Word (Matthew 19:4,5,6, 8).
14. Christianity doesn't prescribe what to wear (Galatians 5:25; Colossians 2:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16).

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

1. Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 7:26 For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

2. Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

3. Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

4. Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.)

5. Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

6. John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

6. Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

6. 1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

7. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

8. 1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

9. Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

9. 1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

10. Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

10. Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

11. Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

11. Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11. Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.

13. Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

14. Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

14. Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances.

14. 2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.