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Joseph Smith was wrong, therefore he was not and is not a prophet of God. One mistake disqualifies Joseph Smith from being one of God's prophets. All the rest of his teaching is irrelevant. Even though Joseph Smith claimed he heard an angel talking to him, no one else with him heard or saw anything. Smith either lied or he suffered under a demonic delusion.

Jesus Christ is the True Prophet

The Bible speaks of Jesus as God's greatest and final Prophet. His coming was predicted centuries in advance by hundreds of very specific prophecies in the Old Testament, and His work to save us from judgment is set forth in the New Testament.

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What Must I Do to Be Saved?

You have broken God's Holy Law, His Ten Commandments (Exodus, chapter 20). If you will be honest with yourself, you have lied, stolen, and coveted, and by doing all these things, you have dishonored your father and mother. And if you will be even more honest with yourself, you have broken all the others, too.

You've got a problem, my friend. And it's a serious problem, because the penalty for breaking God's Law is death, and not just physical death. The penalty is eternal death, separation from God in a place that you really don't want to go to. But there's some good news. In fact, it's great news. That eternal penalty has already been paid. God Himself paid it and paved the road for our salvation through Jesus Christ.

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Notes

- 1 The Mormon Church recognizes the Bible as authoritative "insofar as it is correctly translated"—a catchall excuse for denying whatever Biblical doctrine the Church does not like.
- 2 From *History of the Church*, 2:182. The phrase "48 years" is in the original, but Church historians have edited the current edition.

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- 2 From *History of the Church*, Volume 2, page 182.

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- 2 From *Doctrine & Covenants* 114:1.

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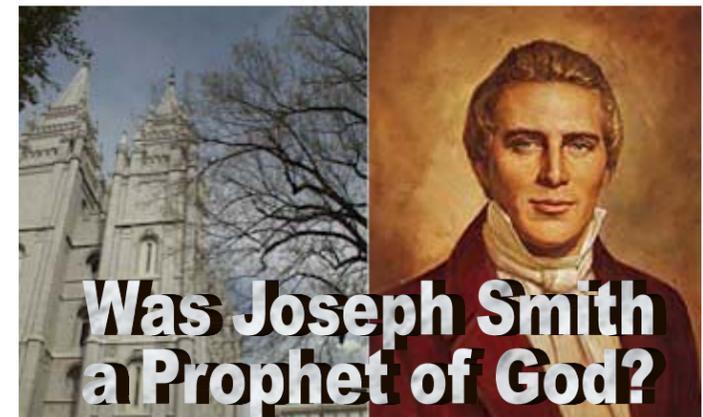
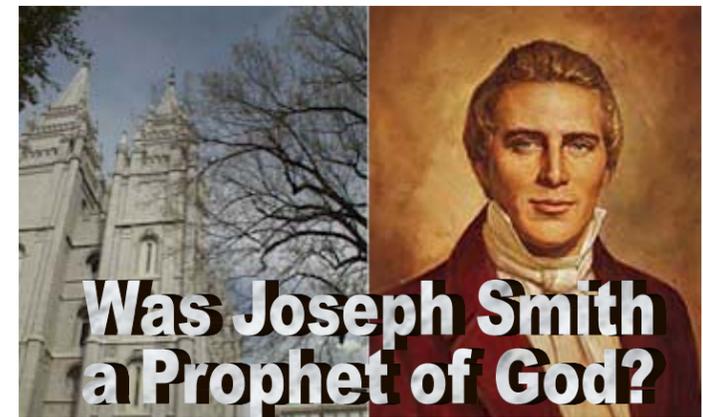
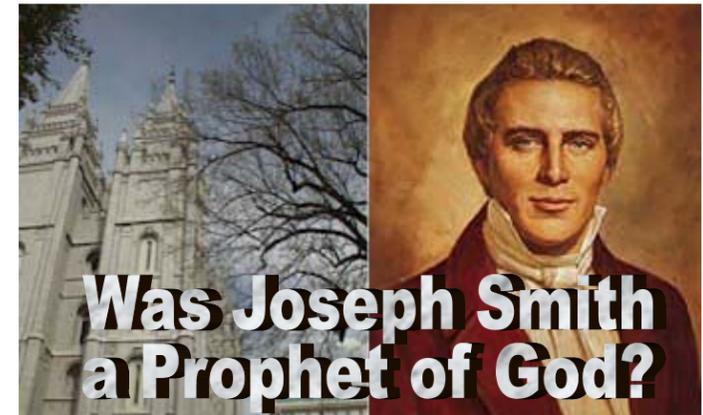
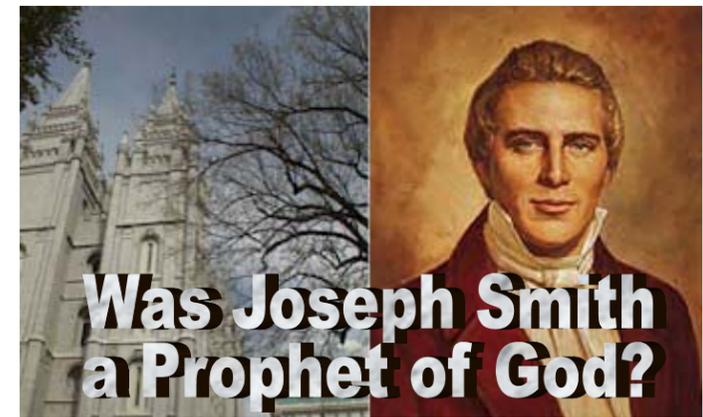
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- 2 From *History of the Church*, Vol. 5, page 394.

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The question of Joseph Smith’s prophethood is a vital issue. If Joseph Smith is not a prophet sent from God, then the Book of Mormon is a fraud and Smith’s false teachings must not only be ignored, but also exposed as a fraud. Mormons must be presented with God’s standards for prophets, as set forth in the Pentateuch, which is recognized by the Book of Mormon.¹

If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death. — Deuteronomy 18:19-20

2 Of course, God has anticipated the problem of identifying just

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2 Of course, God has anticipated the problem of identifying just

who a prophet of God would be. In a word, a prophet can be identified by the accuracy of his predictions:

You may say to yourselves, ‘How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?’ If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him. —Deuteronomy 18:21-22

It is a simple matter to compare the predictions of Joseph Smith with what actually occurred in history. If Smith said something would come to pass, and it didn’t, then he is a false prophet and a fraud and we must expose his false teachings.

Here is just one of the false “prophecies” of Joseph Smith: **3**

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In the name of the Lord God—let it be written: that the Son of Man will not come in the heavens till I am 85 years old, 48 years hence or about 1890.²

This “prophecy” was made by Joseph Smith in 1835. The Second Coming of Christ did not occur “about 1890,” and the Mormon Church certainly does not claim that it did. Nor has it occurred since. Joseph Smith did not live to be 85 years old. Smith died in a Carthage jail in 1844. Why would God make a revelation conditional upon an event which he knew would never happen? He would not.

Joseph Smith’s false prophecies are too numerous to mention here. Use any Internet search engine (i.e., google.com) and search on “false prophecies of Joseph Smith”) to find many more. **4**

It is the will of the Lord that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or the coming of the Lord, which was nigh—even fifty-six years, should wind up the scene.²

Zion here refers to Jackson County, Missouri—not to Israel. Given the context in which this was said, the fifty-six year time frame would place the return of Jesus on or before February 14, 1891. Needless to say, Christ did not return on February 14, 1891.

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Verily, thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto the world.²

This “prophecy” was made by Joseph Smith on April 17, 1838. David W. Patten died in October of 1838 and thus never went on a mission the following spring.

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I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left...²

This “prophecy” was made by Joseph Smith on May 6, 1843. However, the United States Government did not redress any of the wrongs committed against the Mormons in Missouri, and now 160 years later, the U.S. Government still stands.

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God Confirmed His Prophets by Miracles

When God sent Moses to the Israelites, He not only gave him miracles to give him credibility, He also talked to Moses from the mountain, and thousands heard God speaking to him. Also,

- Miriam and Aaron heard the voice of God talking about Moses as a prophet.
- After John the Baptist baptized Jesus, everyone heard the voice of God saying that this is His beloved Son (Luke 3:22).
- On the Mount of Transfiguration, a voice came from heaven and spoke about Jesus. Peter, James and John were with Jesus and heard this voice, too. (Matthew 17:1-8)

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