

# → What About ... Glenn Beck, Mitt Romney, and the Mormon Factor

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On August 26, 2010, Glenn Beck said on his TV program that his upcoming weekend gathering at the Washington DC mall on August 28-29 was not a political event, it was about God. When he spoke, he confirmed, "This is not about politics, this is about God." Glenn Beck is a convert to the Mormon faith, joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1999, along with his wife and children (despite his upbringing as a Roman Catholic). Beck cites the influence of many Mormon friends throughout his life as one of the primary reasons he joined the Mormon Church.



I'd guess that at least 80% of those who attended the Washington rally consider themselves Christians. So Christians went by the thousands to hear a Mormon talk about God. And what do the Mormons believe about God? Here is a short list:

- There is one god FOR THIS PLANET, and this god is but one of many millions of gods who are each overseeing their own planet. So, at its root, Mormonism is polytheism.

- The Mormon god is a flesh-and-blood man from another planet, who through "eternal progression" achieved godhood and was rewarded with a planet of his own.

- Mormonism teaches that we have all existed for all eternity as "intelligences," just like our God's "intelligence." He simply progressed ahead of us. Joseph Smith said: "God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself" ("Journal of Discourses," 1844, Vol. 6, page 7). These "laws" are the basis of Mormon morality and the path to becoming a god and populating a planet of your own. So goodness does not come from god, goodness is above god and a standard which god keeps, and lays out for the rest of us.

- Lorenzo Snow, the fifth president of the LDS church, famously said, "As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become."

- The Mormon view is that Jesus is the first of the children of the god for our planet (who personally, physically, bodily, had sexual relations with Mary). They also believe that Satan was the second of this god's children. Therefore, Jesus and Lucifer (Satan) are brothers.

- In Mormon theology, Jesus is god only in the sense that we can all be gods.

- The Mormon view is that the Bible is the Word of God in so far as it is translated correctly, in light of the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

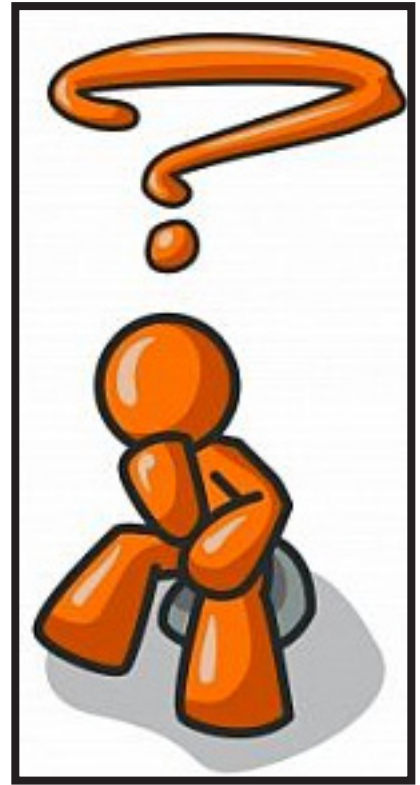
- The Mormons believe that the president of the LDS church is also inspired by God, and the current president,

Ezra Taft Benson (pictured here) said: "I reverence the Constitution of the United States as a sacred document. To me its words are akin to the revelations of God... Recall what our Savior Jesus Christ said nearly two thousand years ago when He visited this [American] promised land: 'For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this [American] land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth'" (3 Nephi. 21:4, in the "Book of Mormon").



Mitt Romney is also a Mormon and a likely candidate for the Republican nomination for president. If he becomes president, it would deceive many (more) into believing Mormonism is Christian because the president has tremendous influence, and he would probably fill his cabinet with Mormons. Romney would embolden and legitimize Mormonism. It would make Mormonism mainstream. Romney may or may not talk much about his faith. But

Glenn Beck is calling people back to "god." However, the god of Glenn Beck is no closer to the God of Christianity than the god of Oprah Winfrey or Shirley McLain.



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The Muslim concept of Allah is closer to biblical Christianity than the god of Glenn Beck's Mormonism because at least the Muslim concept of Allah is monotheistic.

The same goes for Glenn Beck's patriotism. Mormon American patriotism is not just a call to traditional values, freedom, or a free market. It's a call to Mormon eschatology. It's a call to America becoming the "Promised Land" predicted in the Book of Mormon. The American constitution, for Beck's Mormonism, is not just a formula for freedom but an inspired-of-God document which will lead to a Mormon utopia, where we can all go about becoming and making gods. Which is exactly what Satan desired. You will recall that Satan said: *'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'* And God replied: *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit"* (Isaiah 14:14-15).

Many will assume Glenn Beck and Mitt Romney "don't really believe that." It could be that many of those who join the Mormon Church don't understand their satanic concept of god. But that's unlikely for Beck and Romney. Actually, the Mormons are very well-taught. Most Mormon men put in time as missionaries, before which they are taught to know and defend Mormon doctrine.

The danger for the conservative Christian today is not Obama's socialism. We all understand the problem with that. The danger is the call to focus on:

- The word "God" by any definition you like
- Conservative politics instead of biblical truth
- A kingdom on earth instead of in the presence of God in heaven

For many conservative Christians, Fox News and conservative talk radio define their Christianity. I really appreciate these groups because (unlike the "main stream" liberal media) they at least offer a debate on the issues. But they do not represent biblical Christianity, and they clearly have no discernment in that area or they would not be supporting Beck and Romney.

Some of them are actually biblical Christians. Their thinking seems to be: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend. If Glenn Beck is against Obama's socialism, Beck is my friend." That idea has repeatedly gotten us into trouble. Many westerners first supported the Nazi's because they saw them as anti-communist. Many supported Saddam Hussein because he was against Iran. Mormons are not Christians simply because they say so and they are against secular liberalism.

Many Christian conservatives in the media seem to be thinking, "We'll overlook their religion as long as they support free-market capitalism and traditional conservative values. After all, Mormons 'don't drink, dance, and chew, or go with girls that do,' and they love our constitution."

Let me ask you something. What is the foundation of morality? What ultimately makes something good or bad, holy or sinful?

Answer: It is not the American constitution, conservative "traditional" values, or a prosperous economy. It's what is pleasing to God, satisfying to the heart of God, consistent with the character of God, and true to the Word of God. It's all about God, not what supports free-market capitalism and traditional conservative values. We should never conclude that bad theology produces good fruit. Jesus had something to say about that:

- *So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit (Matthew 7:17-18).*
- *Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit (Matthew 12:33).*

If Mormonism is a bad tree, then it produces bad fruit. We should not think (for example, concerning Beck and Romney) that we can ignore their religion because they are political and fiscal conservatives. Theology matters because it offends God. The fruit of a bad tree offends God because the tree offends God.