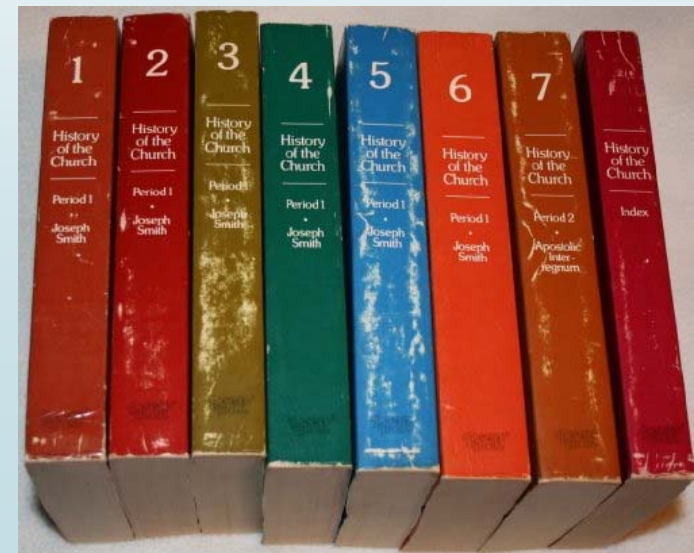
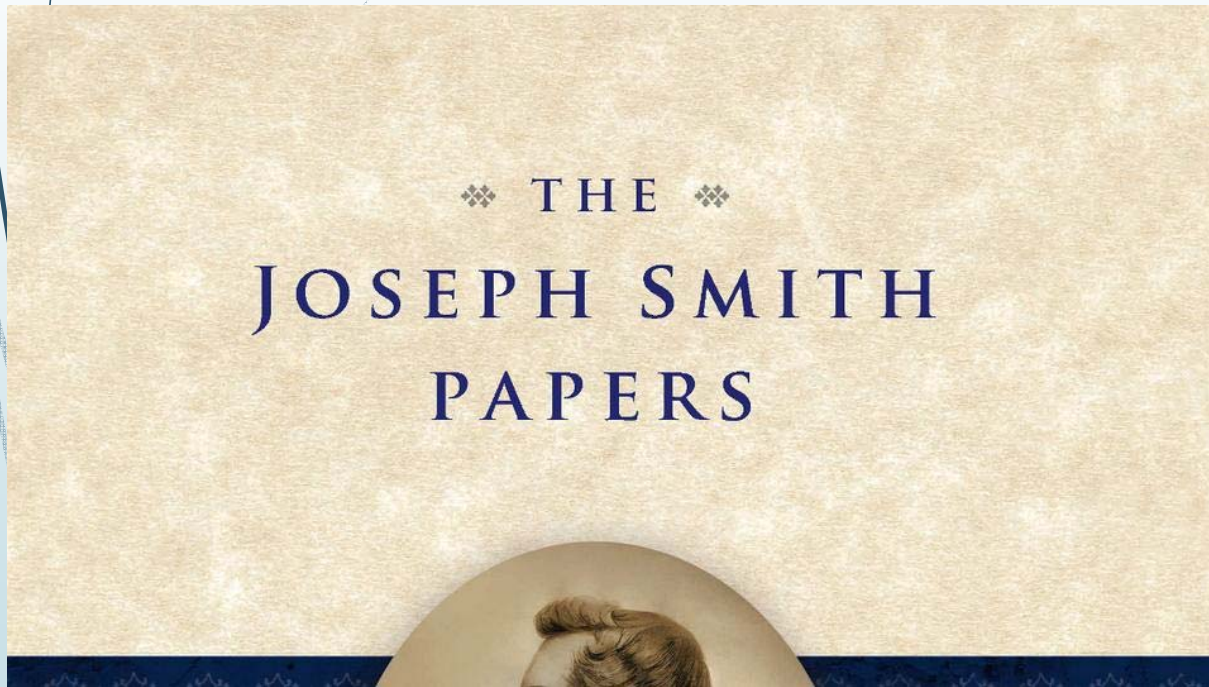
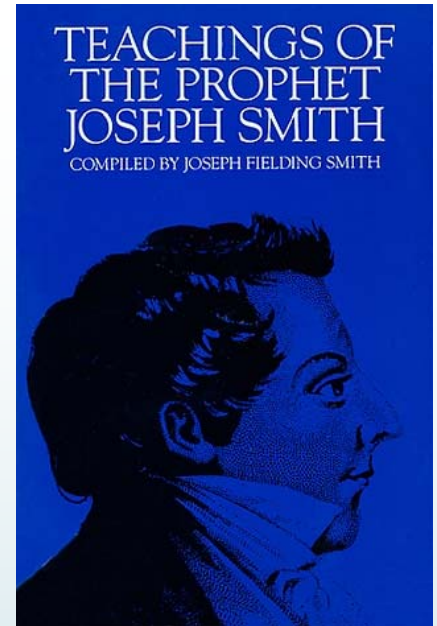


Opposition in All Things

A black and white photograph of a chessboard. In the center, two pawns are facing each other on adjacent squares, one dark and one light. The rest of the chess pieces are arranged in their starting positions on the board, receding into the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the board and the pieces.

2 Nephi 2/9

Changes in the Church

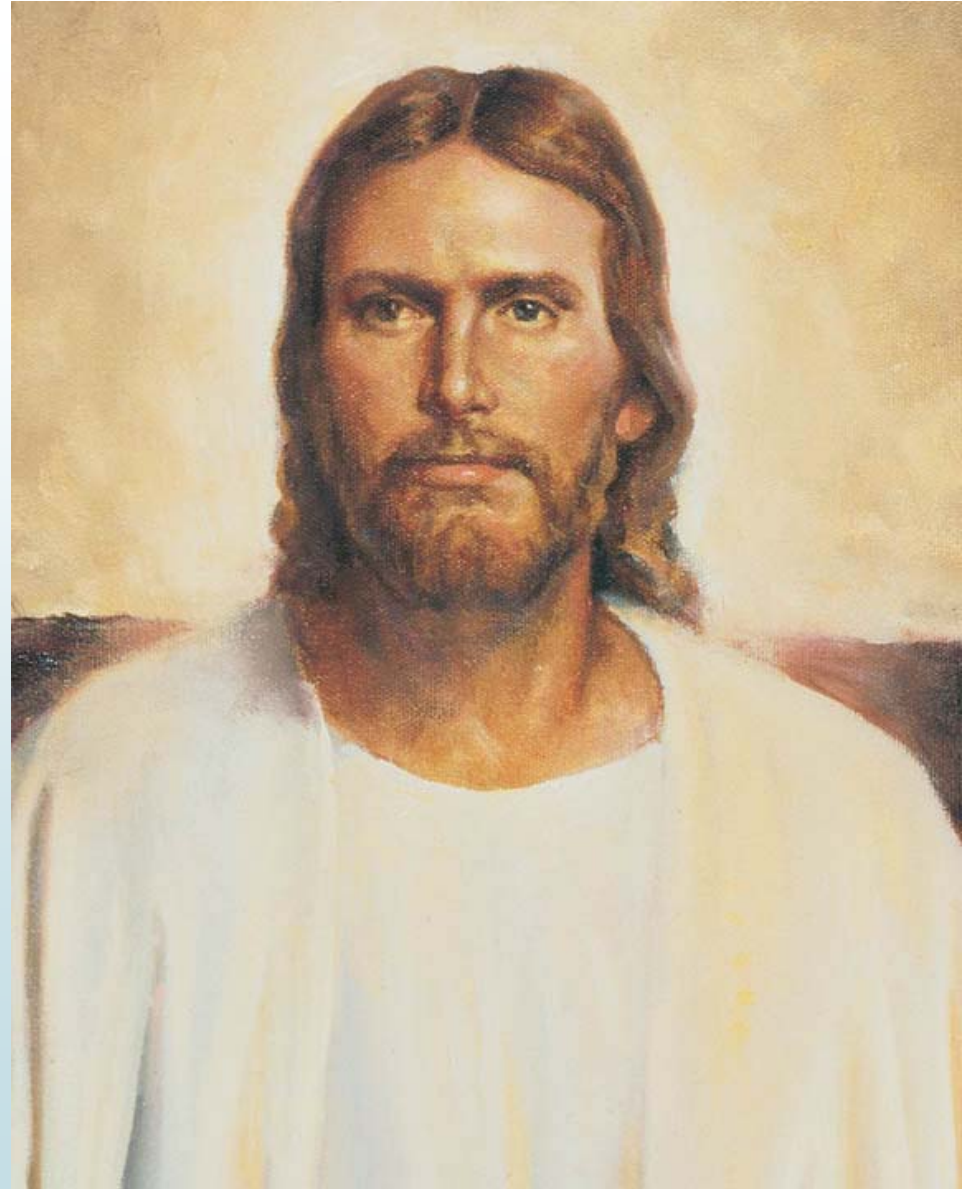


Easy Grace?

2 Nephi 2:3,4

Wherefore, [Jacob], thy soul shall be blessed... Wherefore, I know thou are redeemed, because of the righteousness of thy redeemer..

And the way is prepared from the fall of man, and salvation is free..





Salvation is Free

Obedience

Lucifer's Goal...

2 Nephi 2:18,
16, 14, 12



Choose to
Act

We are then
Acted Upon:

Spirit Changes
us to receive
Joy

Satan hardens
us to fill us with
misery

Joy...

2 Nephi 2: 24, 25

But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.

Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.

2 Nephi 9:14

Wherefore, we shall have a perfect knowledge of all our guilt, and our cleanness, and our nakedness; and the righteous shall [also] have a perfect knowledge of their enjoyment, and their righteousness

Being clothed with purity, yea, even with robe of righteousness.

Unpublished letter of CS Lewis...

Joy vs Pleasure

- ▶ Real joy seems to me almost as unlike security or prosperity as it is unlike agony,"
- ▶ "[Joy] jumps under one's ribs and tickles down one's back and makes one forget meals and keeps one (delightedly) sleepless o' nights. It shocks one awake when the other puts one to sleep. My private table [of] one second of joy is worth 12 hours of Pleasure. I think you really quite agree with me."
- ▶ "Joy must be sharply distinguished both from Happiness and Pleasure. Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again ...
- ▶ I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world.
- ▶ But then Joy is never in our power and Pleasure often is."

God's Mercy for "the learned"

2 Nephi 9:42,43



Mormon Blogger

- Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints relish what they call the “restored gospel,” precisely for the new narrative it introduces about who we are and where humanity comes from. It’s a ‘re-storying’ of life that we embrace as a true reflection of things as they are.
- This includes a conception of God not as a vapor or an essence or an immensity filling all space, but as a literal Father and Mother from whom all humanity inherits a “divine potential” at the deepest level of our DNA.
- No matter whatever else is faced or felt in life, the future possibilities of ‘growing up like Mom and Dad’ touch every aspect of life for the Mormon community. That’s why Mormons get married, enjoy children and family, and have an interest in sharing our convictions with the rest of the world. As one of our apostles has said, “Our theology begins with heavenly parents. Our highest aspiration is to be like them.”

■ <https://www.opendemocracy.net/transformation/jacob-hess/are-mormons-villains-or-just-people-with-different-story-about-their-ident>



Non-Mormon Scholar

...the Mormon doctrine of deification presents something heartwarming. Deification among the Latter-day Saints is not a matter of the lonely individual buried in contemplation.

To become a god, one must become a god *in the midst of family*— as a husband, wife, daughter, son, father, or mother progressing with the family into higher and higher levels of godhood.

Mormonism does not so much teach the deification of the individual as the deification of the family and the larger family of the church. Godhood is eternal communion, and the increase of this communion with God and with each other.

It is not just the rule and domination of other planets; *it is the progression and infinite multiplication of love.*

M. David Litwa, *Becoming Divine: An Introduction to Deification in Western Culture*(Eugene OR: Cascade Books, 2013), 203–204.