

IT AIN'T SO, JOE!

By
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A former President of the Mormon Church, Joseph Fielding Smith, (not the movement's founder) penned:

"Mormonism as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground"
(Doctrines of Salvation 1:188).

I concur one hundred percent! Either Joseph Smith was a true, divinely inspired prophet or he was not... period! If he was, then all of us should become Mormons. If he was not, then all Mormons are entrusting their eternal soul to the rhetoric of a madman.

Fortunately, the criterion for a true prophet of God is not ambiguous. Instead, we have clear passages in the Bible which delineate the qualifications for one of God's spokesmen. Take a moment to reacquaint yourself with the following text:

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously..."
(Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

Further, according to the Bible, one false prophecy would disqualify a man as a prophet of God since he would have been subjected to the death penalty. Notice:

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die"
(Deuteronomy 18:20).

Thus, with these truths set in our minds, let us examine the level of credibility Joseph Smith has biblically.

1. According to **Doctrines and Covenants** (hereafter D&C) **84:1-5**, a city called "New Jerusalem" along with a temple akin to that of the one Solomon built (cf. **1 Kings 5:1ff**) was to be built in Missouri during that generation. The city was not built. The temple was not built in that generation. The prophecy was false!
2. In **D&C 124:56-60** Joseph Smith stated that God informed Him that "Nauvoo House," in Nauvoo, Illinois would belong to the Smith family forever. Joseph Smith was killed in 1844. The Mormons were driven from Nauvoo and from that time on the house no longer belonged to the Smith family. The prophecy was false!
3. In **The Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 3:14** it is recorded that Joseph Smith's enemies would be confounded when they sought to kill him. Smith was shot to death while in jail in Carthage, Illinois on June 27, 1844. His enemies were not confounded. The prophecy was false!
4. In 1835 Joseph Smith predicted that the coming of the Lord would be within 56 years (**History of the Church: Volume 2, page 182**). The Lord did not return. The prophecy was false!

5. Smith also said, "*I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written – the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am 85 years old*" (**Joseph Smith's Teaching, page 86**). **Smith was murdered before he turned 85.** The prophecy was false!
6. Smith is quoted as saying on behalf of God that there are Quaker-like inhabitants living on the moon (cf. **Journal of Oliver B. Huntington: Volume 2 page 166**). I believe that there have been five moon walks and each has proven that **there is no life on the moon.** This must be awfully embarrassing for Mormons. The prophecy was false!
7. In a "prophetic" utterance on May 6, 1843, Joseph Smith claimed the following words were from God concerning the American government's poor treatment of the Mormons: "*I Prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redresses the wrongs 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...*" (**Millennial Star 21:143**). The United States **did not** redress the Mormons. The United States government **was not** overthrown and wasted. The prophecy was false!
8. In **Doctrines and Covenants 84:112-115** (recorded in September 1832) Smith announced that the cities of New York, Boston, and Albany were to be destroyed and decimated if they would not accept Mormon doctrine. Smith sent an emissary, Newel Whitney, to these cities to announce this "repent or perish message." The message was given and rejected. **The cities were not destroyed and decimated.** The prophecy was false!
9. Joseph Smith referred to those Mormons who resided in Jackson County, Missouri as "Zion." This is a matter of fact; unquestioned in Mormon theological circles. Keeping this in mind, it is interesting to note that on August 2, 1833, Smith received the following revelation: "*Surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place*" (**D&C 97:19**). However, Smith was in Kirtland, Ohio when he transmitted this prophecy. Being far from Missouri, and without the benefits of our modern amenities (telephones, instant messaging, et al), Smith was unaware that two weeks prior to his prophetic utterance the Mormons (i.e. Zion) were tarred and feathered and run out of town. Said incident is a matter of public record. **Zion was removed.** The prophecy was false!
10. On another occasion Smith boldly announced that he would be given all the gold and silver of Salem, Massachusetts (**D&C 111:1-4**). **The city never opened up its treasury to Smith.** The prophecy was false!
11. On April 17, 1838, Joseph Smith announced that a Mormon named David W. Patten would be commissioned to perform a mission trip the following spring (**D&C 114:1**). One minor set back ensued however: Patten was shot and killed prior to springtime. **Patten was never commissioned because he was no longer alive.** The prophecy was false!
12. Smith prophesied that a temple would be built in Nauvoo, Illinois (**D&C 124: 29-36**). No doubt to the collective chagrin of "high ups" in the Monster's hierarchy, one of the later Presidents of the Mormon Church admitted that the temple was never completed (**Journal of Discourses: Volume 18, pages 303-304**). **The temple was not built.** The prophecy was false!

13. According to one Mormon Publication: Millennial Star (volume 22, page 455), Smith announced that The Congress of the United States would be done away with; indeed, that there would be *“nothing left of them – not even a grease spot”* unless the Mormon petition for special governmental protection was heard by that institution and granted. Last time I looked, Congress was still holding sessions. **The petition was not heard. The protection was not granted.** The prophecy was false!
14. According to **D&C 87:1-8**, the American Civil war would culminate in a war which would be poured out upon all the nations of the world. I have a BA in History from an accredited state college; in fact one of the courses I took was a semester long study of the Civil War. However, I cannot ever remember learning about a world war ensuing from the Southern secession from the Union. **The war never became a global conflict.** The prophecy was false!

Folks, Joe Smith was a false prophet – plain and simple! Expose Him as such (**Ephesians 5:11**).