

BURNED OVER DISTRICT  
AND  
THE RISE OF CULTS

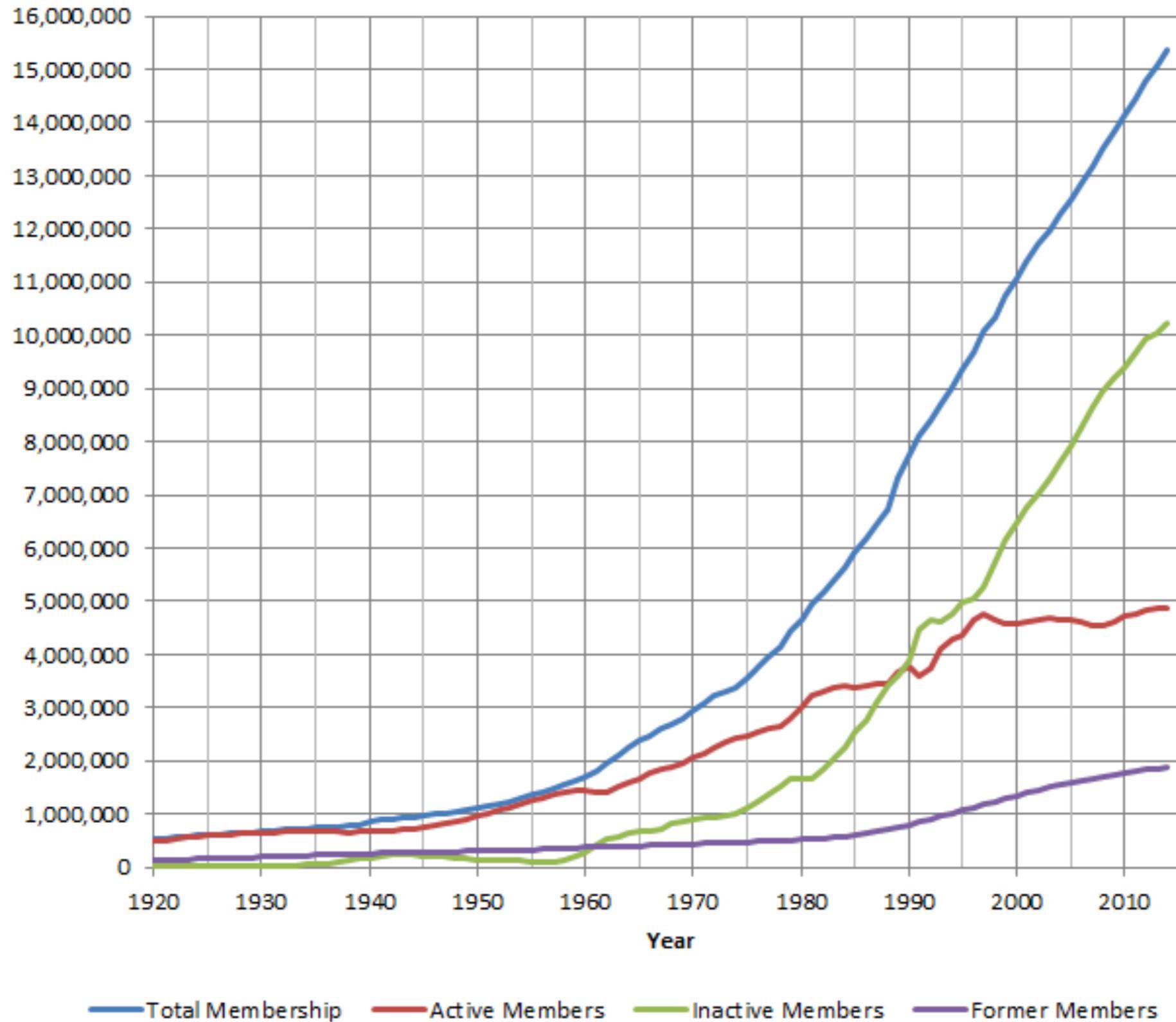
# Six Reasons Why Mormons Are Beating Baptists (In Church Growth)

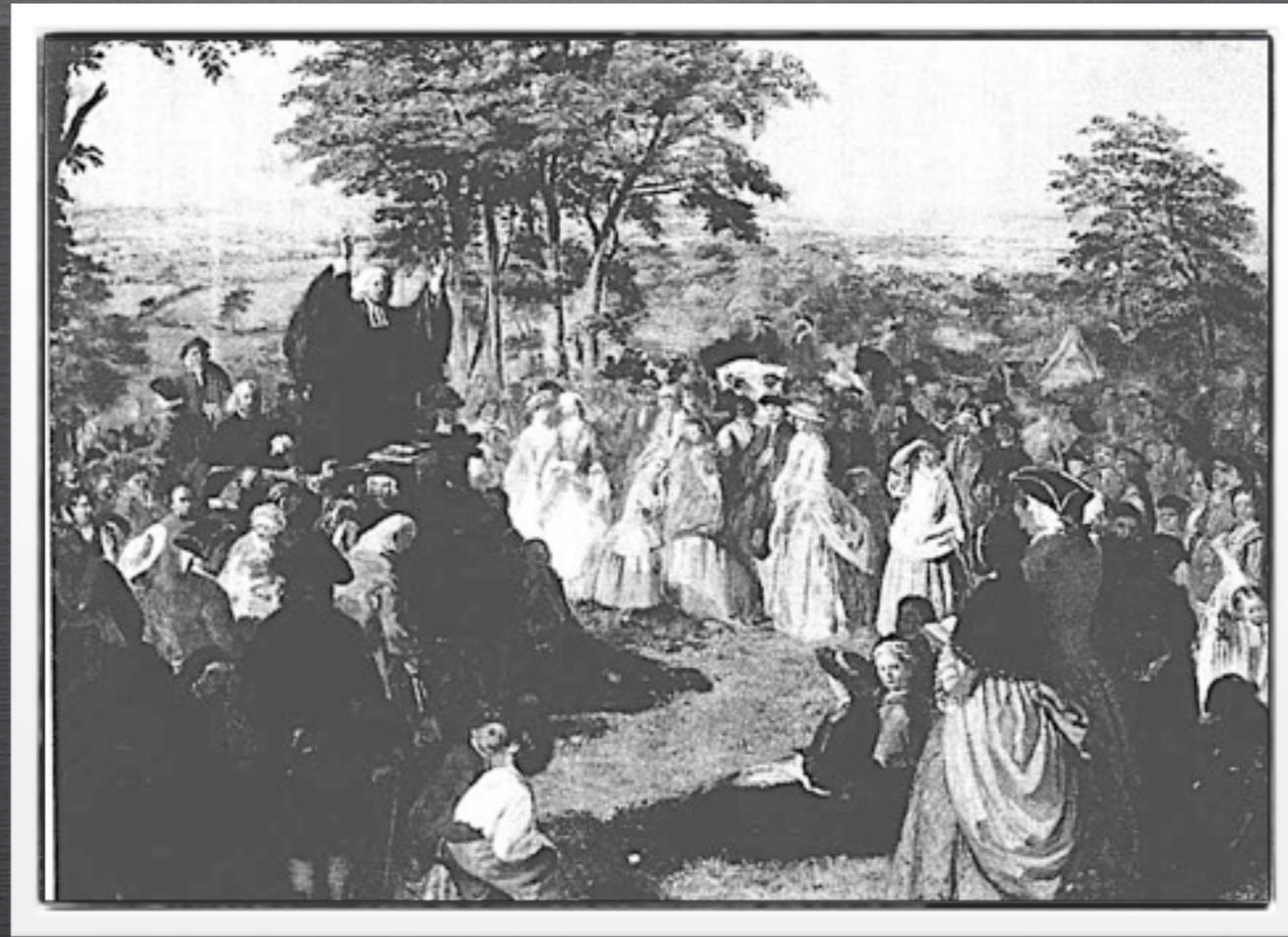
 July 10, 2012 by [David French](#)



Our churches face a demographic crisis.

## Estimated LDS Membership Distribution



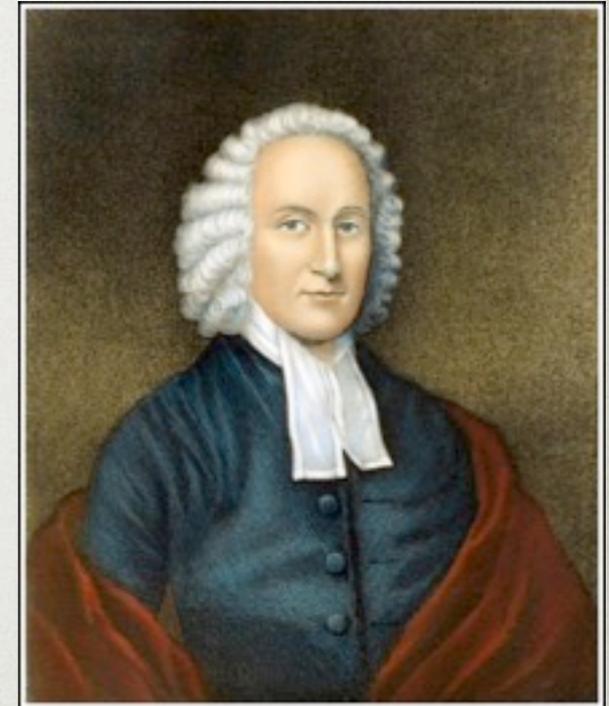


# FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

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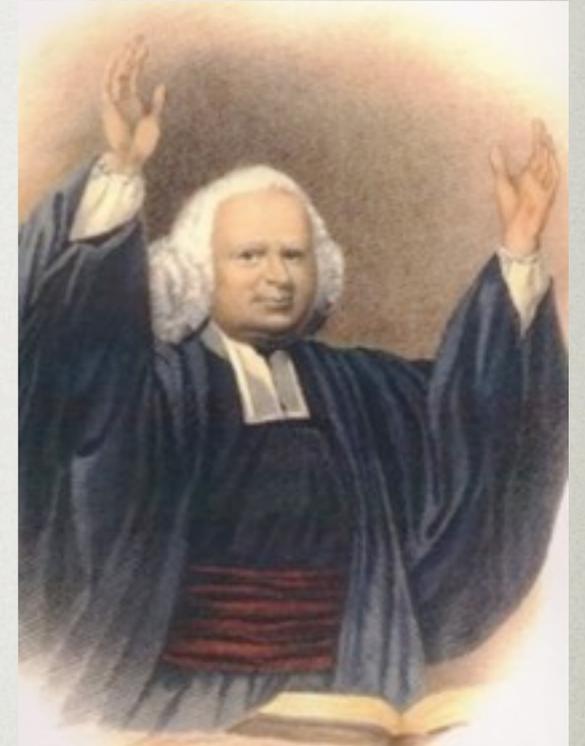
- Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) - came from Puritan roots.
- Emphasized the importance of personal religious experience.
- His sermons were powerful and attracted a large following.



# FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

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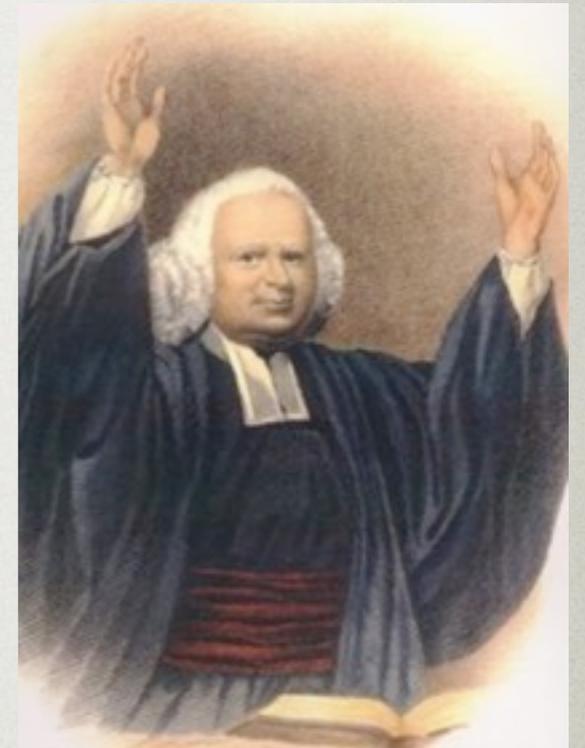
- George Whitefield (1714-1770) - preached throughout colonies.
- Lively, enthusiastic preaching in open air meetings.
- New style: actor-preacher instead of scholar-preacher.

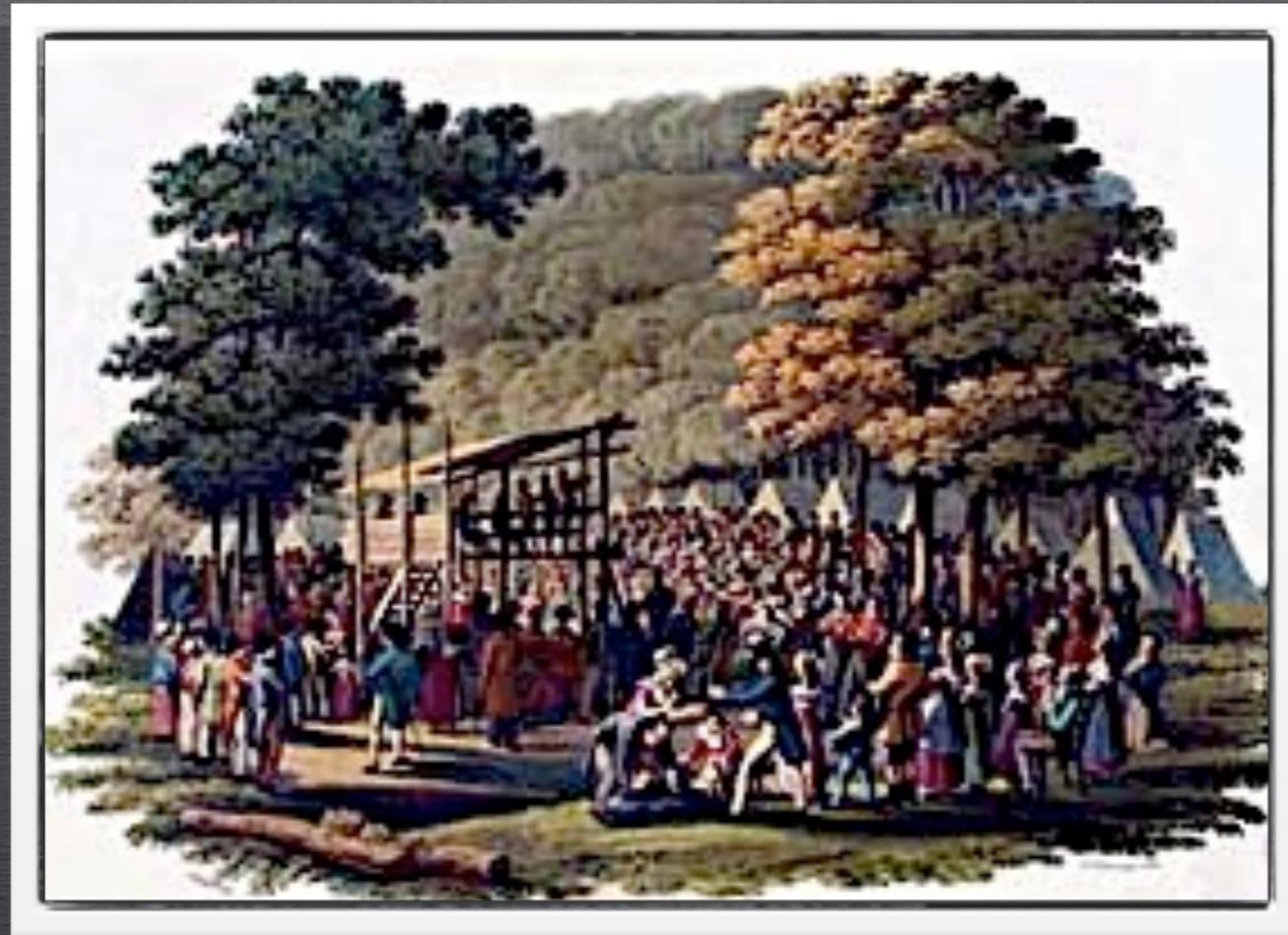


# FIRST GREAT AWAKENING

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- Preached that people could save themselves by repenting of sins.
- He also pioneered the use of mass marketing to attract huge crowds to his revival meetings.
- Also drew together the colonies, a major reason for American Revolution.





# THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

# RIDERS IN THE STORM

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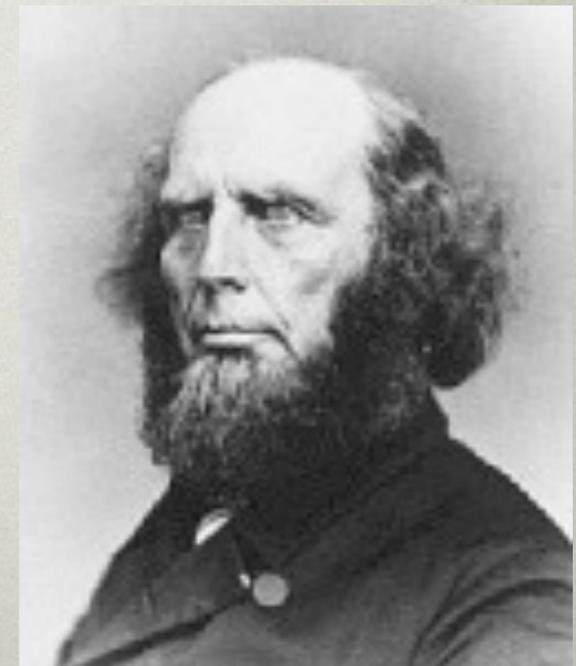
- Methodist circuit riders became legend on frontier.
- One minister dubbed them God's "light artillery."
- Bad storms: "There's nobody out tonight but crows and Methodist preachers."



# SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

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- Charles Finney (1792-1875) - lawyer, became an important minister.
- Born the year after John Wesley died - the link between the two revivals.
- He hated slavery and became a champion for many social reform issues.

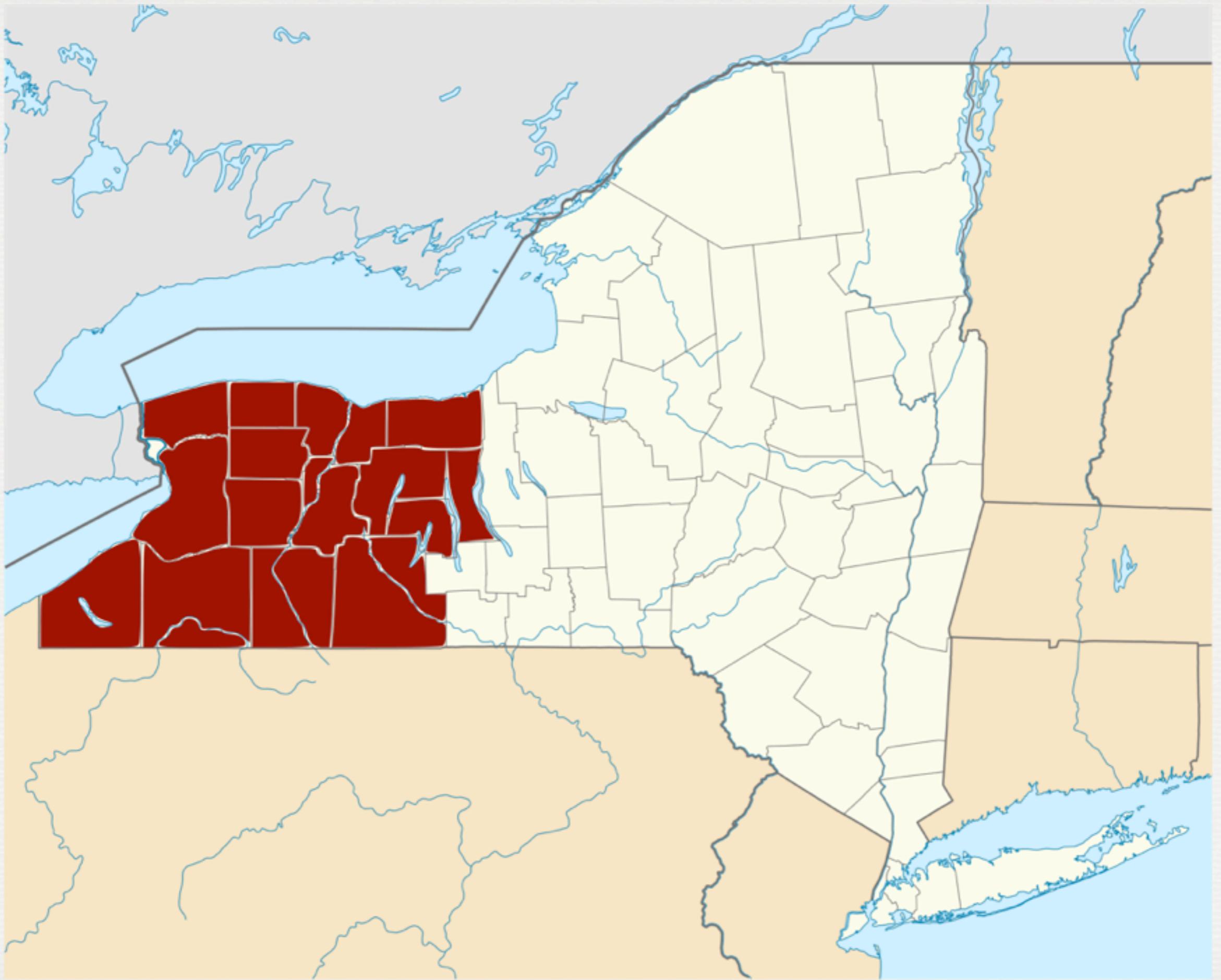


**HISTORY OF THE  
BURNED OVER  
DISTRICT**

# HISTORY

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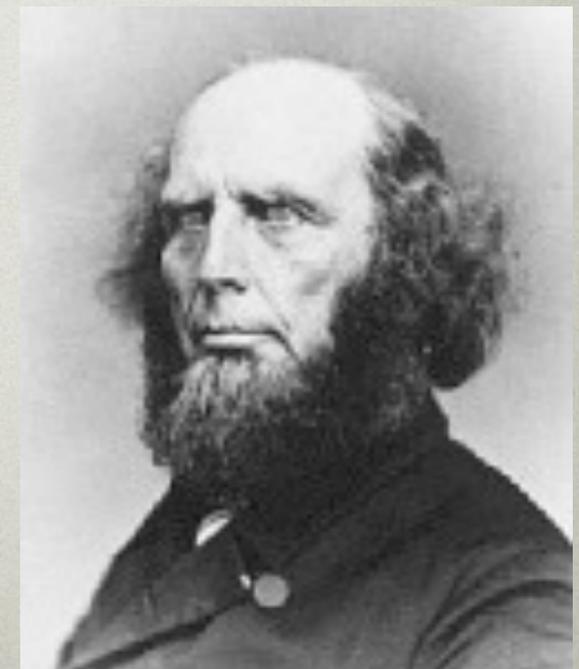
- The burned over district refers to the western part of New York in the early 19th century.
- This is where religious revivals and the formation of various religious groups (sects and cults) took place.



# HISTORY

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- Charles Finney was the person who coined the term “burnt district.”
- This identified the area where religious revivals burned until there was no more fuel (unconverted people) to burn (convert).



# HISTORY

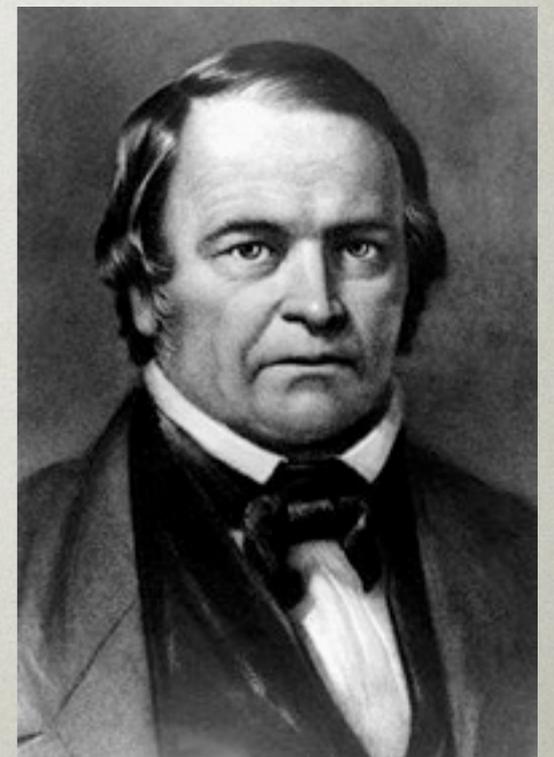
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- Western New York was still a frontier and so professional clergy were scarce.
- Many of these self-taught revivalists were susceptible to various heresies.
- The religious fervor made it easy for heretics to gain a following even though they were not teaching orthodox views.

# MILLERITES

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- William Miller was a farmer from Low Hampton, New York.
- He preached that the Second Coming would occur 1843-1844.
- He survived a battle in Vermont during the War of 1812.

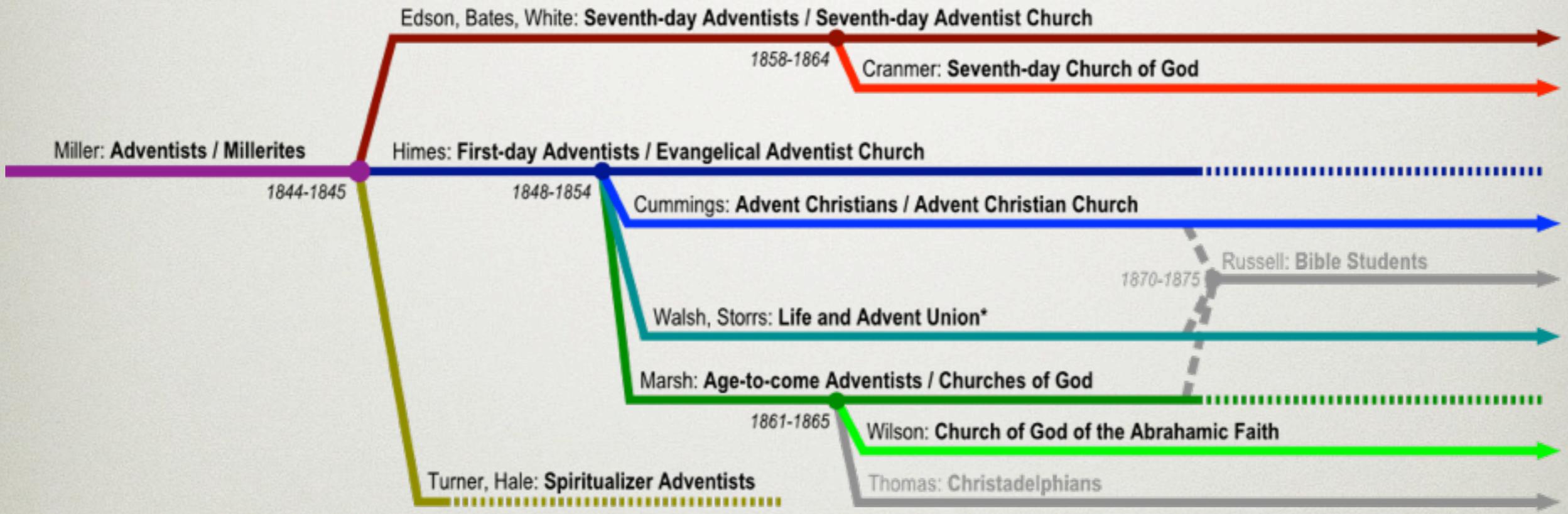




# ADVENTISTS

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- Adventism grew out of the Millerite movement. The name refers to the belief in the imminent Second Advent of Jesus.
- There were different strands of Adventism. The most prevalent is the Seventh-day Adventists who are today considered to be more orthodox.



\* incorporated to Advent Christian Church in 1964

# SHAKERS

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- Shakers are the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing.
- Branched off from a Quaker community.
- Shakers were known for their communal lifestyle and their celibacy.
- Members do not marry or have sex because sex was Adam's sin.

# SHAKERS

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- They got the name Shakers because of their movements and dancing during their time of worship.



# ONEIDA

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- The Oneida Community was founded by John Humphrey Noyes in Oneida, NY.
- They believed that Jesus had already returned in A.D. 70.
- That means they could form His millennial kingdom themselves and be free of sin and perfect the world.

# ONEIDA

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- They are best known for two things: sex and silverware.
- The Oneida community believed in free love. Any member was free to have sex with any other who consented.
- The Oneida community began producing silverware at the end of the 19th century.

**MAJOR CULTS  
FROM THE  
BURNED OVER DISTRICT**

# Jehovah's Witness

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# History of Jehovah's Witness

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- ❖ Founder Charles Taze Russel (1852-1916)
- ❖ Joseph Rutherford (1916-1942)
- ❖ Nathaniel Knorr (1942-1975)
- ❖ Fredrick Franz (1975-1992)
- ❖ Milton Henschel (1992-2003)
- ❖ Don A. Adams (2003-)

# Charles Taze Russell

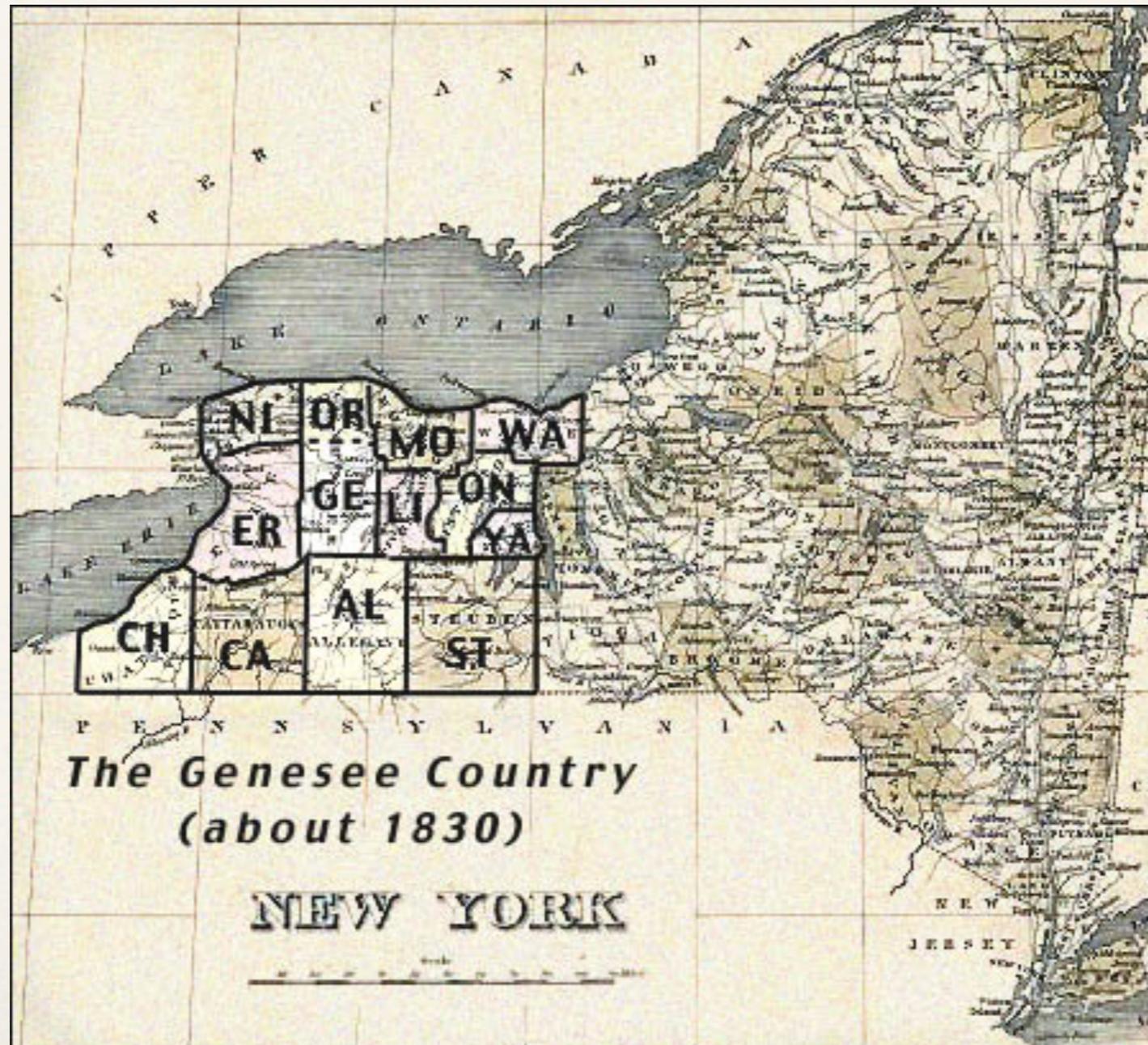
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- ❖ Congregationalist upbringing
- ❖ Left Adventists in 1879
- ❖ Published six volume *Millennial Dawn*
- ❖ 20 million copies printed



# Burned Over District - New York

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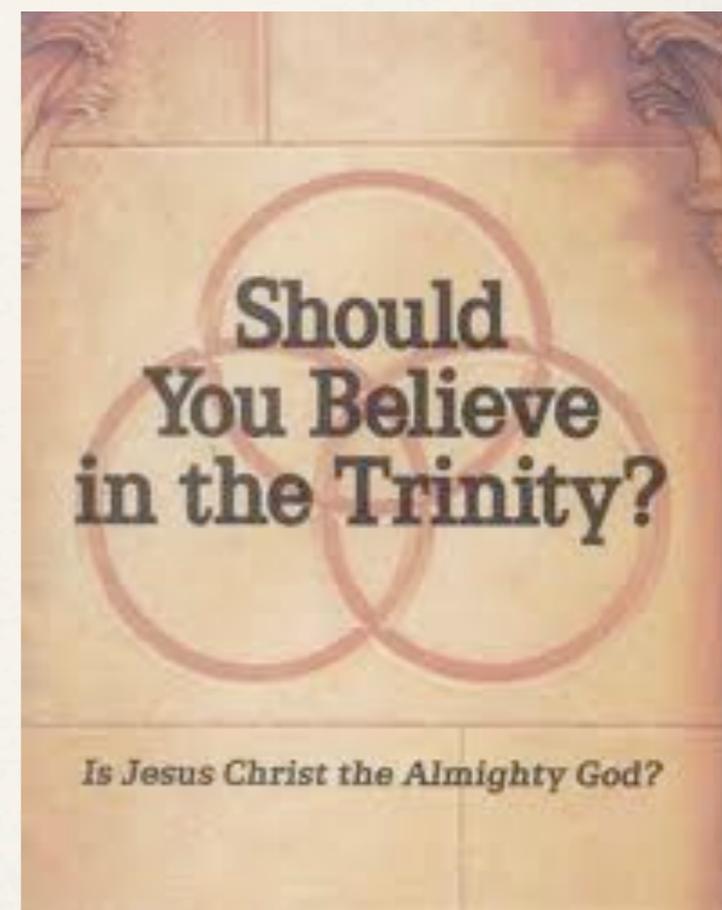


# Jehovah's Witness: Trinity

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“There is no evidence that any sacred writer even suspected the existence of the (Trinity) within the godhead.”

*Should You Believe in the Trinity?*

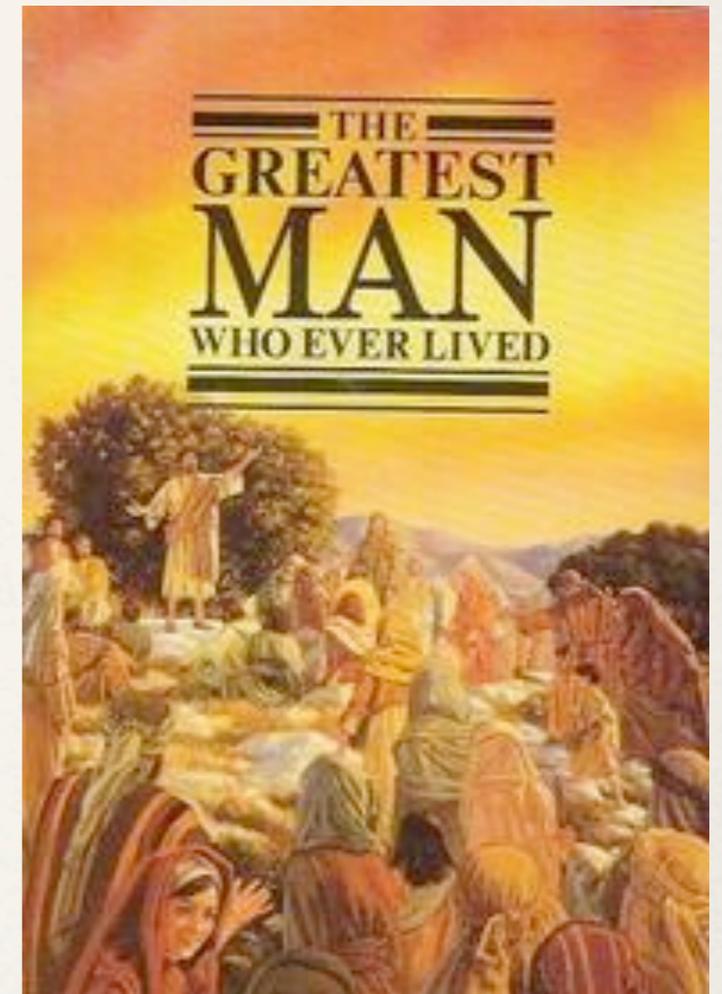


# Jehovah's Witness: Jesus

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- ❖ Jesus before the incarnation was Michael the Archangel, the first of God's creation.
- ❖ "In the beginning was the word the word was with God and the word was a god."

*New World Translation*



# Jehovah's Witness: Holy Spirit

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- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a force like electricity or fire and not a person.
- ❖ “As for the Holy Spirit, the so-called third person of the Trinity, we have seen that this is not a person but God’s active force.”

*You Can Live Forever*



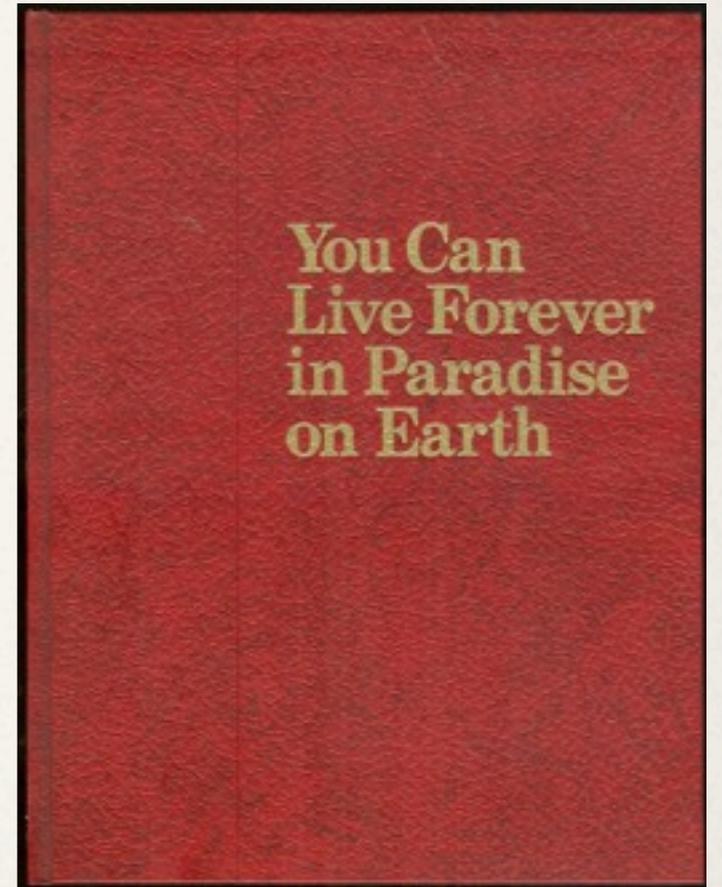
**The spirit can be compared to electricity**

# Jehovah's Witnesses: Man

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- ❖ Man is physical only, there is no eternal soul.
- ❖ “God did not create man with a soul. So as we would expect, when man dies, his soul dies.”

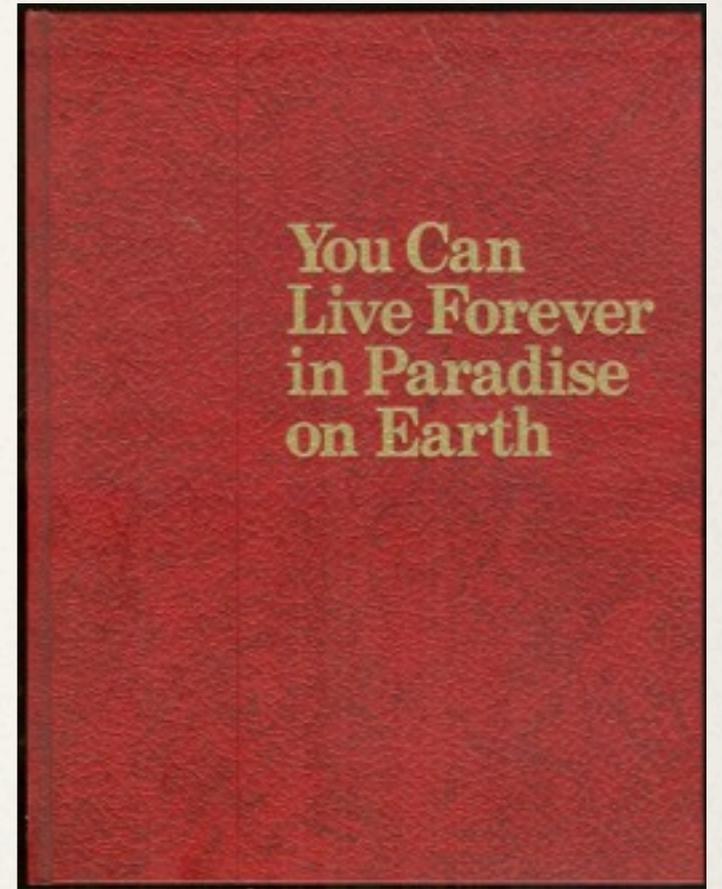
*You Can Live Forever*



# Jehovah's Witnesses: Man

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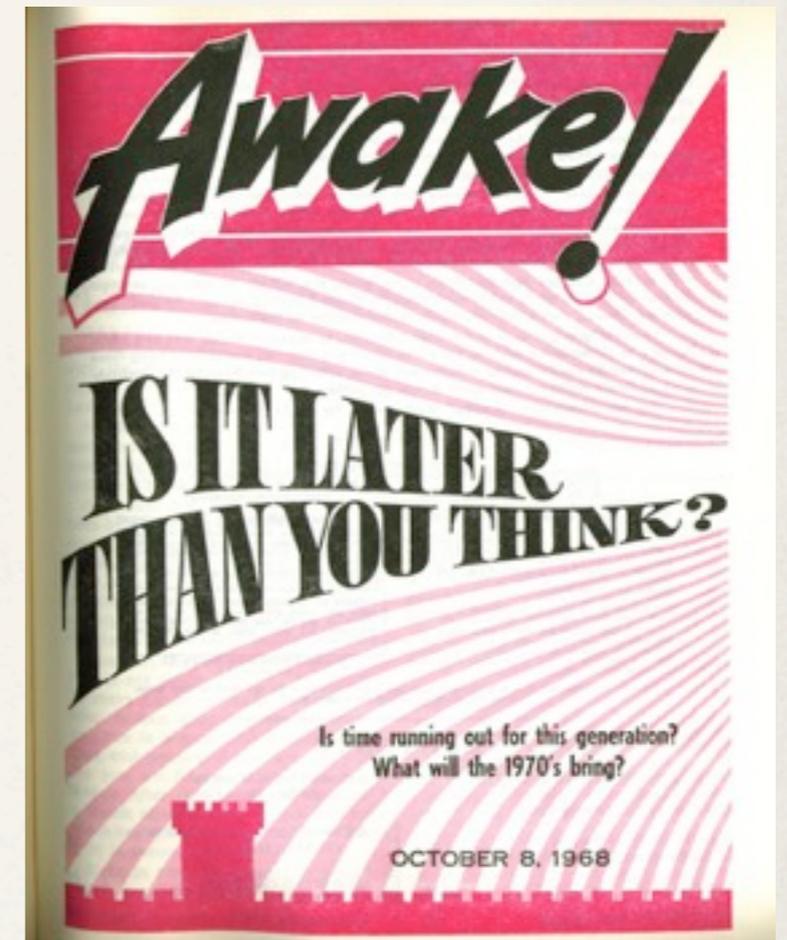
- ❖ Annihilation: once the body dies there is nothing left.
- ❖ Jesus' death only paid for Adam's sin.
- ❖ Salvation is only through the Watchtower organization.



# Jehovah's Witness: End times

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- ❖ In 1914 Christ began his rule in heaven.
- ❖ His return to earth to establish His kingdom was invisible.
- ❖ Christ will soon return to establish His rule here on earth.



# Deity of Christ

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- ❖ Jesus declared Himself to be God
  - ❖ John 8:58 (Exodus 3:14)
  - ❖ Matthew 12:8
  - ❖ John 17:5
- ❖ The apostles declared Jesus to be God
  - ❖ Matthew 1:23
  - ❖ John 20:28
  - ❖ Titus 2:13

# Mormonism

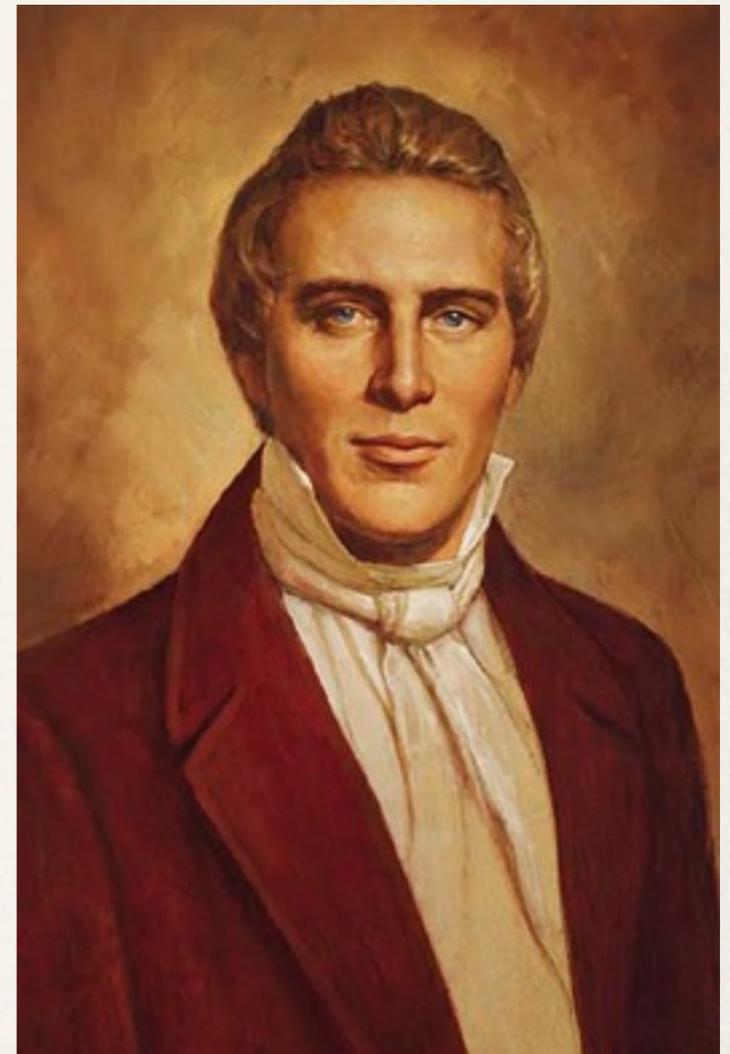
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# Joseph Smith

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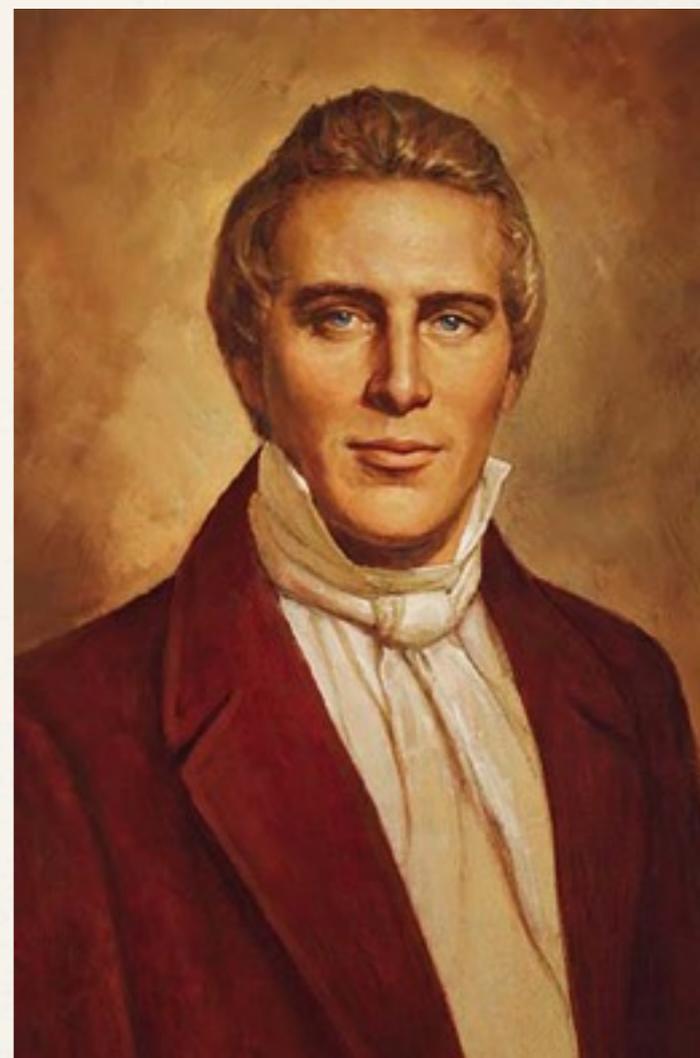
- ❖ Born in 1805 in Vermont. Family soon moved to Palmyra area of New York.
- ❖ Poverty drove the family to practice divination and treasure seeking.
- ❖ “Jesus Christ excepted, no better man [than Joseph Smith] ever lived or does live upon this earth.” Brigham Young, 1862



# Joseph Smith

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- ❖ From 1825 to his death, Joseph Smith claimed to have received revelations from Moroni, John the Baptist, the Apostle John and others.
- ❖ Resulted in the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price.
- ❖ In June 1844 Joseph Smith and his brother were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.



# Smith's Visitation

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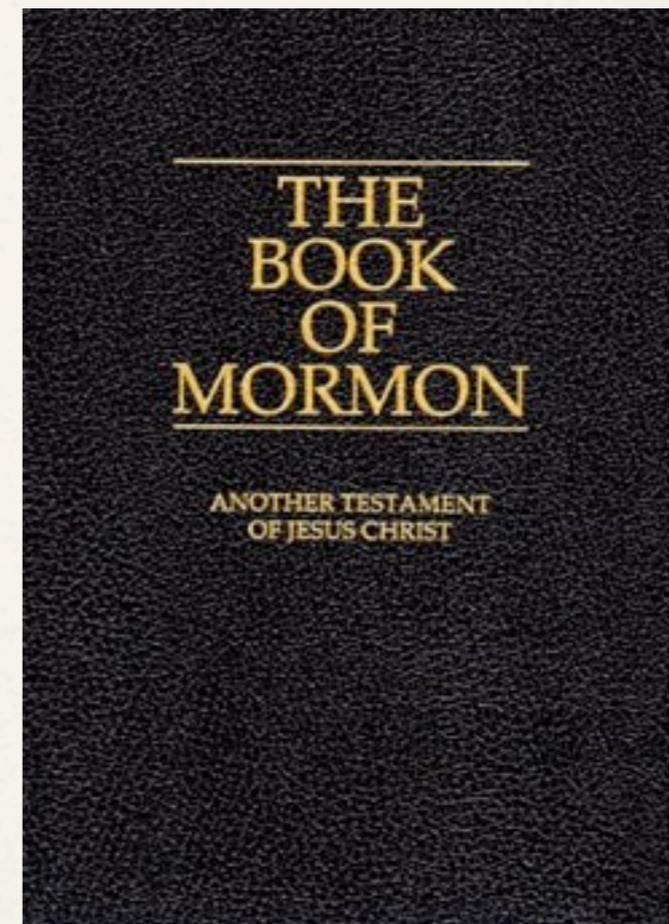
- ❖ In 1820, Smith received a visitation from God the Father and Jesus Christ.
- ❖ In 1823, he received a visit from Moroni who told him where gold plates were buried in hills of Cumorah in New York.
- ❖ From 1825 to death, Smith received revelations from Moroni, John the Baptist, Apostle John and others, which became D&C and Pearl of Great Price.



# The Book of Mormon

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- ❖ Claimed to be a translation from “reformed Egyptian” characters engraved on Moroni’s plates.
- ❖ Covers 2,200 B.C. to 421 A.D.
- ❖ Three migrations from Israel to America.
- ❖ Nephites and Lamanites
- ❖ No archaeological evidence for the book.



# Mormon Doctrine of God

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“Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow - three in one and one in three.”

Joseph Smith, Teachings

# Mormon Doctrine of God

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*“As man now is, God once was; as God now is,  
man may be.”*

Lorenzo Snow, 5th President

# Mormon Doctrine of Jesus

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- ❖ Jesus is the first of the spirit children born to God the Father.
- ❖ Jesus is the spirit brother of Satan and all mankind.
- ❖ Incarnation involved a sexual union.

“Christ was begotten by an immortal father in the same way that immortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.”

Mormon Doctrine

# Jesus - Bible

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- ❖ “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1:16-17

- ❖ “For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses— as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.”

Hebrews 3:3-4

# Mormon Doctrine of Jesus

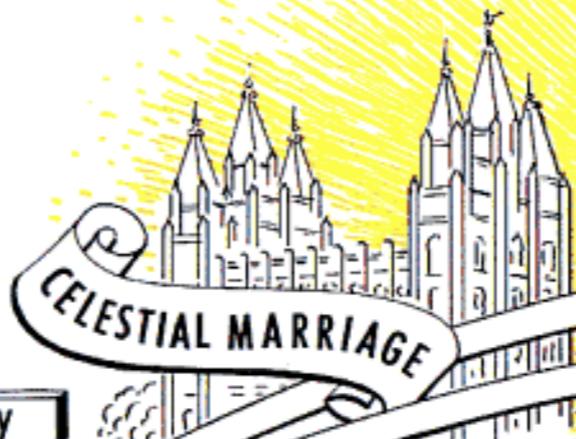
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- ❖ Jesus will return and restore the Mormon gospel worldwide.
- ❖ There will be a 1000 years rule by Christ.
- ❖ There will be two capitals: Jerusalem and Independence, MO.
- ❖ “The law will go out from Zion, and the word of the LORD out from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).
- ❖ The New Jerusalem (Zion) will be the administrative capital. Jerusalem will be the religious capital.

REALMS OF DEITY  
*Spirit Life*  
FIRST ESTATE

# FREE AGENCY

I'm going by the upper roac,  
For that still holds the sun;  
I'm climbing through night's pastures  
Where the starry rivers run;  
If you should think to seek me  
In my old dark abode,  
You'll find this writing on the door:  
"HE'S ON THE UPPER ROAD."  
— Anon.



1  
2  
3  
**CELESTIAL KINGDOM**

**TERRESTRIAL KINGDOM**

**TELESTIAL KINGDOM**



BIRTH

**FREEWAY**

Faith

Repentance

Baptism

Holy Ghost

Morality

Loyalty

Tithing

Word of Wisdom

Duty

STRAIGHT and NARROW-WAY

Those who died without law

Not valiant in the testimony of Jesus

The good & honorable but blinded by the craftiness of men

DETOUR  
1000 Years  
in Hell

The dishonest, liars, sorcerers, adulterers, and whoremongers.

BROADWAY

LOWWAY

**SECOND ESTATE**

# Twelve Steps to Salvation

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- ❖ Faith – obey the commands of Jesus
- ❖ Repentance – paying back our debt to Jesus
- ❖ Baptism - by immersion in the LDS church by a priest
- ❖ Laying on of hands by priest - to receive Holy Spirit
- ❖ Ordination as a Melchizedek priest
- ❖ Receiving the Temple Endowments

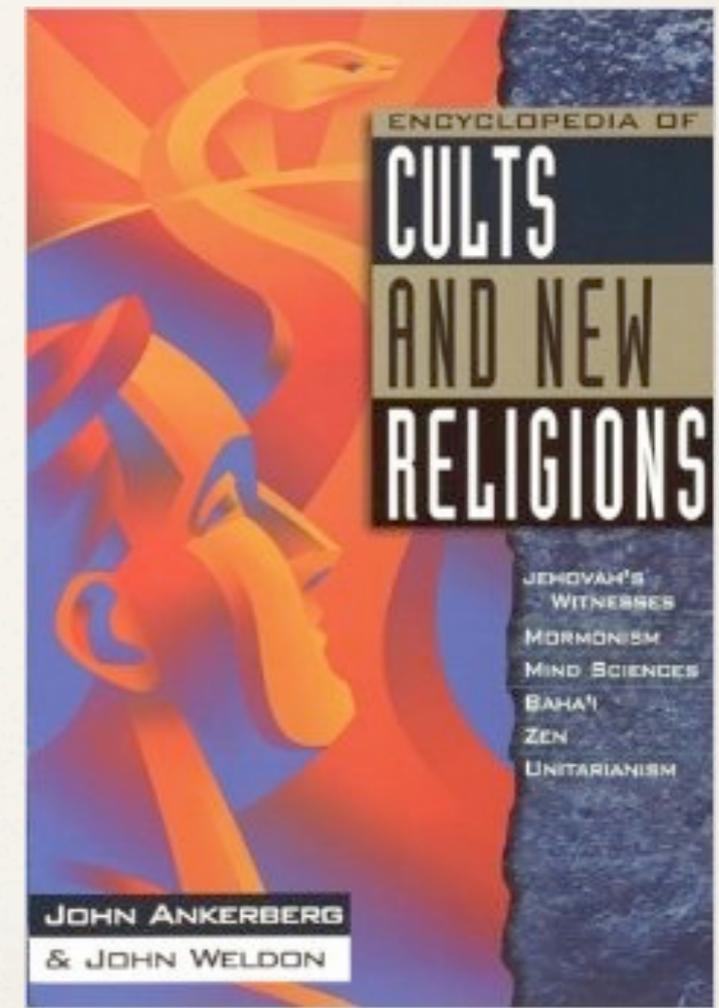
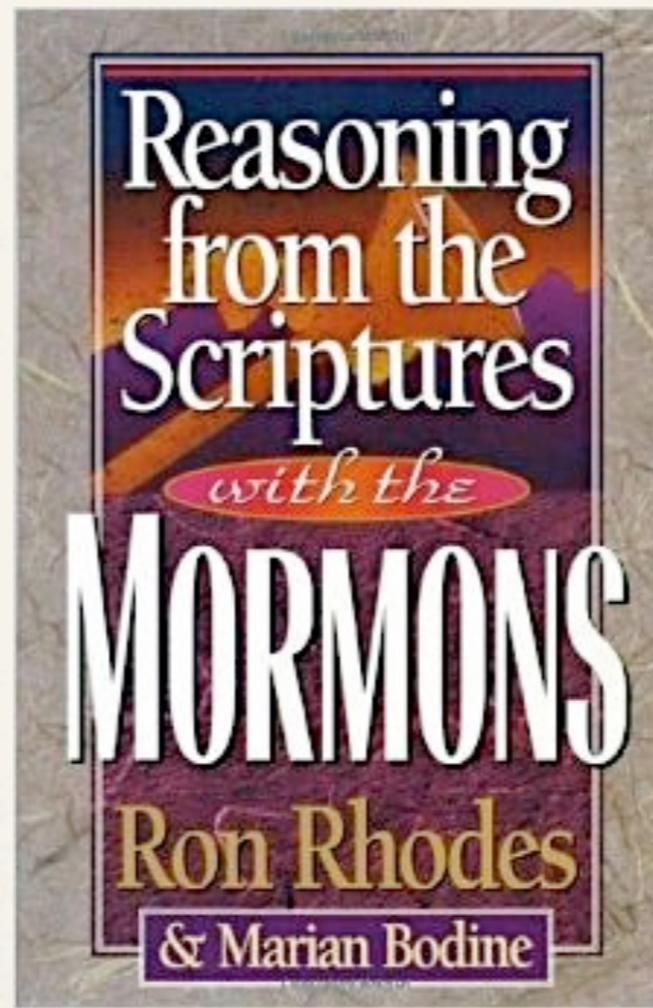
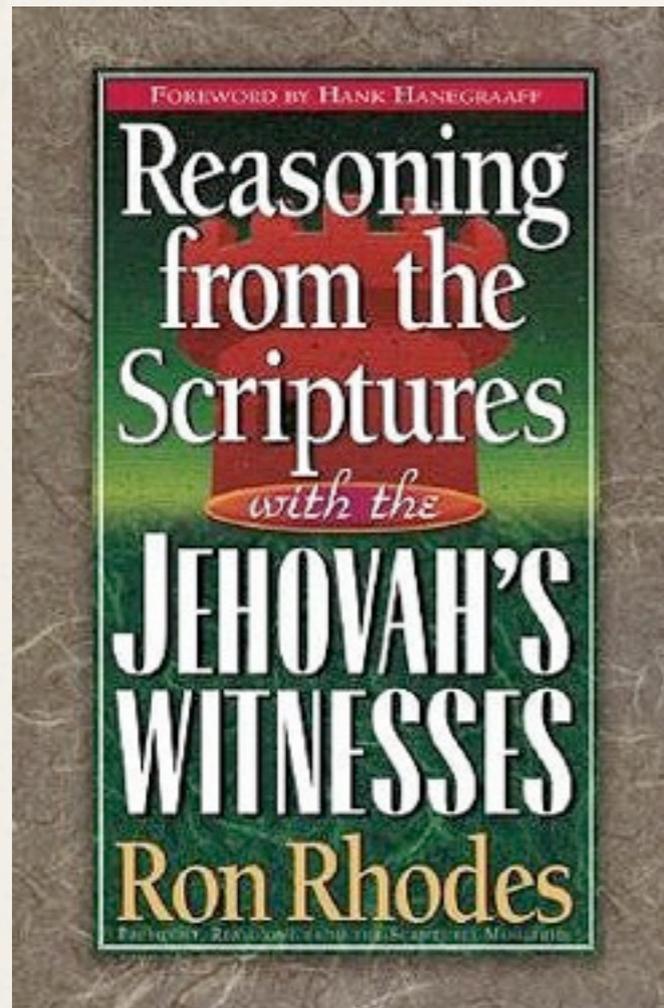
# Twelve Steps to Salvation

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- ❖ Celestial Marriage - the gate to exaltation to highest heaven
- ❖ Observing the Word of Wisdom - avoid “strong drinks”
- ❖ Sustain the Prophet - support Prophet/President of the Church
- ❖ Tithing - one tenth of the interest or increase
- ❖ Sacrament Meetings - renew covenant begun by baptism
- ❖ Obedience - the first law of heaven for salvation

# Resources

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Patrick Zukeran  
May 27, 2005

*Dr. Zukeran looks at a Mormon view of Jesus comparing it to an authentic Christian perspective. He finds that the Mormon view is not supported by the biblical text.*

### Jesus a Procreated Being?

The Mormon Church claims to have restored the true teachings of Jesus. In this article, we will compare the Mormon doctrine of Jesus to the New Testament.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus, God the Son, is eternal and has no beginning. However, Mormonism teaches that Jesus is a procreated being, the literal offspring of God the Father and one of His heavenly wives. According to Mormon theology, God the Father, Elohim, dwells on a planet with His many spirit wives producing numerous spirit children who await to inhabit physical bodies so that they too may one day ascend to godhood as their parents did. Jesus is believed to be the firstborn spirit child

