

## **Mormon Church**

Quotes copied & pasted from: <http://www.mormonbeliefs.com/LDS%20Prophets.htm>

All Mormon churches accept Joseph Smith as a Prophet of God. After the murder of Joseph, several have presumed to stand as his successor. Every latter day saint should consider very carefully the claims of every man to this office. There can be only one true Prophet of God. The divine authority of each church depends on the validity of that claim.

The first claim was made by James J. Strang. At the moment of Joseph's murder, 400 miles away, he claimed to have been ordained, the same as Joseph, as First President. A letter from Joseph appointing James as his successor later arrived by regular mail.

Two and half months later, Brigham Young claimed Joseph would have no successor; and claimed the twelve apostles would stand at the head. Three and half years later, he reversed his position; and by the vote of man was elected to be their First President. He was neither appointed by Joseph, nor ordained according to the law of God. They settled in the Salt Lake Valley.

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<http://www.mormonbeliefs.com/Gospel%20Restoration.htm>

Joseph Smith later claimed to be ordained under the hands of Peter, James, and John as an Apostle of the higher Melchisedec Priesthood-- the same as prophets of old. Only by ordination to the office of Lawgiver (first degree Apostle), as Moses, could he give revelations and commandments from God, for His people.

Quotes copied & pasted from: <http://mormon.org/restoration/>

In 1823 Joseph Smith was visited by a heavenly messenger named Moroni just as angels often appeared to Apostles in the New Testament. Moroni told Joseph about a record of the ancient inhabitants of the American continent that was buried in a nearby hill. He said it contained the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and was written on thin metal sheets of gold. Joseph translated the book into English. The book was named the Book of Mormon after Mormon, the ancient prophet who compiled it.