

Brigham Young actually said “You see some classes of the human family that they are black, uncouth, uncomely, disagreeable and low in their habits, wild, and seemingly deprived of nearly all the blessings of the intelligence that is generally bestowed upon mankind. The first man that committed the odious crime of killing one of



of his brethren will be cursed the longest of any one of the children of Adam. Cain slew his brother. Cain might have been killed, and that would have put a termination to that line of human beings. This was not to be, and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin. Trace mankind down to after the flood, and then another curse is pronounced upon the same race—that they should be the ‘servant of servants;’ and they will be, until that curse is removed; and the Abolitionists cannot help it, nor is the least alter that decree. How long is that race to endure the dreadful curse that is upon them? That curse will remain on them, and they never can hold the Priesthood or share in it until all the other descendants of Adam have received the promises and enjoyed the blessings of the Priesthood and the keys thereof. Until the last ones of the residue of Adam’s children are brought up to that favorable position...” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol 7, p. 290-291)

In the 19th century when Brigham said the above, very few people would have been upset. It was popular in his day to say the “mark” God put on Cain was black skin. Black skin being punishment for slaying his brother Able (Genesis 4:15). Of course this disregards the fact the Bible teaches no such thing.

For most, it was a case of horrible misinterpretation. However, the LDS church went a step further naming God as the source of this discrimination. Former LDS

President Joseph Fielding Smith said “...it is not the authorities of the Church who have placed a restriction on him [Blacks] regarding the holding of the priesthood. It was not the Prophet Joseph Smith nor Brigham Young. It was the Lord!” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Answers to Gospel Questions Joseph Fielding Smith Vo.2. 1958, p. 185*)



This Pulitzer prize winning photo was taken of a small black Sudanese girl close to death. The vulture was simply waiting for her to die before having its own meal.



Thankfully the photographer rescued the child. An important question to ask is “Who is at fault?” Is it the corrupt Sudanese Government? Is it mankind in general for turning a blind eye?

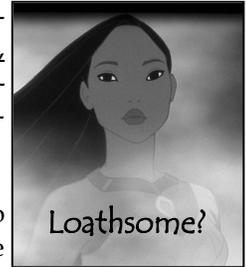
If you are a sensitive person you may in some way take blame yourself. All of these are correct answers. However, LDS doctrine carried out to its logical conclusion has a very different answer. Mormon Apostle Mark E. Peterson said:

“...we can account in no other way for the birth of some of the children of God in darkest Africa, or in flood-ridden China, or among the starving hordes of India, while some of the rest of us are born in the United States? We cannot escape the conclusion that because of performance in our pre-existence some of us are born as Chinese, some as Japanese, some as Indians, some as Negroes, some as Americans, some as Latter-day Saints. There are rewards and punishments, fully in harmony with His established policy in dealing with sinners and saints, regarding all according to their deeds.” (Race Problems—As they Affect the Church, Address by: Elder Mark E. Peterson, given at: The Convention of Teachers of Religion On The College Level, Provo, Utah, August 27, 1954)

Of course the average loving Latter-day Saint of today would not be so mean to say the child simply got what she deserved. That being said, LDS doctrine taken to its logical end, implies the child was born a non-Mormon, black African because of “performance” in the pre-existence. According to LDS theology, if she had performed well, she would have been born a white Mormon in the USA where starvation and vultures are not very common.

Latter-day Saint scriptures espouse Israelites came to America and separated into two white nations known as the *Nephites* and the *Lamanites*. Because of sin and rebellion the skin color of the Lamanites changed. These Lamanites are reported to be the ancestors of the American Indians. 1st Nephi 12:23 in the B.O.M. says:

“And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.”



The Book of Mormon also says, “And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity . . . wherefore, as they were white, and exceeding fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them.” (2 Nephi 5:21)



Although not taught much today, the Church did teach that upon conversion to Mormonism the Indians dark skin would return again to white.

“...the designation Nephites and Lamanites was originally a means of identifying true believers on the one hand and apostates on the other. After the separation into two groups had occurred, however, to avoid intermarriage between them, the Lord placed a curse upon the Lamanites which included a dark skin (2 Nephi 5:21-25)... And there were also periods when the believing Lamanites joined with the Nephites, became a white and delightsome people again, and were called Nephites. (3 Nephi 2:14-16).” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 528-529)

Common LDS Reactions

LDS Reaction #1—“These are just a few isolated quotes taken out of context to make the church look bad.”

Response—Unfortunately this is not the case. It is only due to lack of space on this tract that more quotes are not provided.

References are provided so the reader can look them up and explore the contexts. The quotes also are not isolated or even rare. LDS books written prior to June 9th, 1978 are full of quotes just like that contained in this tract. Find a few books, look in the table of contents/index under priesthood, blacks (usually called negroes), curse of Cain etc.. If you do this you may discover how pervasive this doctrine used to be in the Church. A great resource can be found at http://utlm.org/onlinebooks/curseofcain_contents.htm

LDS Reaction #2—“In 1978 the priesthood ban was lifted from blacks. Today, all worthy males can hold the priesthood.”

Response—Yes the priesthood ban on blacks was lifted in 1978 but there are a few huge problems. First, all LDS “revelation” prior to that time said clearly that the ban would not be lifted until well after the resurrection, not in this life. See the end of the first quote by Brigham Young at the beginning of this tract. Also, consider the words of Joseph F. Smith:

“...the Lord decreed that the children of Cain should not have the privilege of bearing the priesthood **until Abel had posterity who could have the priesthood and that will have to be in the far distant future. When this is accomplished on some other world, then the restrictions will be removed from the children of Cain** who have been true in this “second” estate.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Answers to gospel questions*. Vol. 2, P. 188)

A second huge problem is one that is often overlooked. Was racism OK prior to 1978? The Church has never come out and said they were wrong but only changed the doctrine for today.

Is any of this Biblical Anyway?

Genesis chapter four is where the story of Cain and Abel is found. After Cain slew his brother God pronounced a “curse” and put a “mark” on him. Was the curse a denial of priesthood? Was the mark that of black skin? The Bible actually answers these questions and they are far different from LDS answers.



What was the curse? Genesis 4:12 says “When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.” In other words, Cain would not be a good farmer! If blacks were cursed it is strange that whites would have enslaved them to raise crops here in America. Actually, much of America was built upon the farming skill of blacks. There is no mention of black skin anywhere.

What was the “mark?” The text does not say but it was for Cain only. It would be as justified to say the “mark” was a really big thumb. Also, the “mark” was not passed down to successive generations. There is no mention in the Bible of blacks being cursed.



The leadership of the LDS Church has made an unbiblical distinction between dark skin and light skin. If you are LDS you have a choice to make with this information. You can do as many do today, and ignore it. Or, you can act on it! The choice is yours.

My LDS friend, I care very much about your future. As a concerned Christian I pray information from this tract will birth a deep desire for further research.

If you desire eternal life now follow these inspired directions from the Apostle Paul.

“...confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you **will be saved.**” (Romans 10:9)

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IS GOD RACIST?

by james hazelton