

The Restored Gospel and World Religions – Part 2

(Religion 390R)

Brother Mark Spencer

Friday 10:30am

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to help students increase their understanding and conviction of the unique characteristics and divinely appointed mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while also expanding their awareness of and respect for other religious traditions and organizations.

Note: The Book “Light and Truth - A Latter-day Saint Guide to World Religions” - Roger R. Keller is an excellent source and will be quoted from extensively in this class. <https://rsc.byu.edu/book/light-truth>

The textbook *Religions of the World* (Spencer J. Palmer and others [1997]) is listed as suggested lesson material. This resource is available for purchase at store.lds.org. An older edition can also be accessed for free in ePub and PDF formats at <https://archive.org/details/religionsofworld00palm#maincontent>.



Google Classroom - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NiE5MiAwMTcxMjY2?cic=c2js3vv>
Code: c2js3vv

You can access the syllabus, course material, and contact Bro. Spencer here.

*For readings access the by the links in the syllabus

Jan 12 - Cass 1: Judaism

Suggested Lesson Material

- <https://rsc.byu.edu/light-truth/judaism> - Roger R. Keller, "Judaism," Light and Truth: A Latter-day Saint Guide to World Religions (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2012), 206–29.
- Ellis T. Rasmussen, “Judaism,” *Ensign*, Mar. 1971, 40–49.
- E. LV Richardson, “What Is a Jew?” *Ensign*, May 1972, 12–17.
- Spencer J. Palmer and others, *Religions of the World* [1997], Brigham Young University, 136–86.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “The mission of Abraham’s descendants through Israel was ... to bear the witness of the true and living God unto the nations of all the world, and to bring the blessings of his acquaintance and his covenants to all” (Rasmussen, “Judaism,” 49).

Jan 19 - Class 2: The Ancient Church / The Great Apostasy / Reformation Period / Restoration

Suggested Lesson Material – Ancient Church

- [Moses 5:12–15, 58–59; 6:23](#).
- Gordon B. Hinckley, “Four Cornerstones of Faith,” *Ensign*, Feb. 2004, 3–7.
- Rodney Turner, “Christ’s Church in Ancient America,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 48–52.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “Absolutely basic to our faith is our testimony of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who under a divine plan was born in Bethlehem of Judea” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “Four Cornerstones of Faith,” 4).

Suggested Lesson Material

- Russell M. Nelson, “The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 79–81.
- Neal A. Maxwell, “From the Beginning,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 18–20.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “This Great Apostasy followed the pattern that had ended each previous dispensation” (Russell M. Nelson, “The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” 79).

Suggested Lesson Material

- *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2018), [35, 45–46](#).
- Arnold K. Garr, “Preparing for the Restoration,” *Ensign*, June 1999, 34–40.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “Those forerunners to Joseph Smith, the long-prophesied seer of the last days ... , did not have access to the fulness of the gospel, but their efforts were vitally important in laying the foundation for him” (Garr, “Preparing for the Restoration,” 34).

Suggested Lesson Material

- <https://rsc.byu.edu/light-truth/contributions-restoration> - Roger R. Keller, "Contributions of the Restoration," Light and Truth: A Latter-day Saint Guide to World Religions (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2012), 302–13.
- Joseph Smith—History.
- Dallin H. Oaks, “Apostasy and Restoration,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 84–87.
- L. Tom Perry, “The Message of the Restoration,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2007, 85–88.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “The theology of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is comprehensive, universal, merciful, and true” (Dallin H. Oaks, “[Apostasy and Restoration](#),” 87).

Jan 26 - Class 3: Christianity

- <https://rsc.byu.edu/light-truth/christianity> - Roger R. Keller, "Christianity," *Light and Truth: A Latter-day Saint Guide to World Religions* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2012), 230–67.

Catholicism

Suggested Lesson Material

- Burt Horsley, “[Roman Catholicism](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 1971, 44–52.
- Francis E. George, “[Catholics and Latter-day Saints: Partners in the Defense of Religious Freedom](#)” (Brigham Young University forum, Feb. 23, 2010), 1–9, speeches.byu.edu.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “The sacrament of holy matrimony is regarded as a very sacred covenant instituted by the Savior for those who marry” (Horsley, “[Roman Catholicism](#),” 52).

Feb 2 - Class 4: Eastern Orthodoxy

Suggested Lesson Material

- Milton V. Backman Jr., “[Eastern Orthodoxy](#),” *Ensign*, May 1971, 48–53.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “Through baptism, Eastern Christians maintain, recipients are cleansed of their personal sins and the original sin and become members of the earthly kingdom of God” (Backman, “[Eastern Orthodoxy](#),” 51).

Feb 9 - Class 5: Lutheranism

Suggested Lesson Material

- Burt Horsley, “[Lutheranism](#),” *Ensign*, Oct. 1971, 30–39.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “In addition to justification by faith as a first principle, both Lutheranism and Mormonism teach salvation by grace through the atonement of Jesus Christ, whom they recognize as the sole head of the church” (Horsley, “[Lutheranism](#),” 39).

Feb 16 - Class 6: Reformed Protestantism

Suggested Lesson Material

- Richard O. Cowan, “[Reformed Protestantism](#),” *Ensign*, Feb. 1972, 28–35.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “Latter-day Saints agree with Calvin’s emphasis on forgiveness through the atoning sacrifice of Christ and that baptism is ineffective without an inward change, but they would insist that baptism is a definite requirement for admission into the kingdom of heaven” (Cowan, “[Reformed Protestantism](#),” 31).

Feb 23 - Class 7: Anglican/Episcopalian and Methodist

Suggested Lesson Material

- Joe J. Christensen, “[The Church of England](#),” *Ensign*, Sept. 1971, 56–62.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “At least two significant religious movements have grown out of the Church of England. They are the Methodist and Protestant Episcopal churches of America” (Christensen, “[The Church of England](#),” 59).

Mar 8 – No Class Spring Break

Mar 15 - Class 8: Evangelical Christians, or Born-Again Christians

Suggested Lesson Material

- Jeffrey R. Holland, “[Standing Together for the Cause of Christ](#),” *Ensign*, Aug. 2012, 44–49.
- Robert R. Millet, “[What We Believe](#)” (Brigham Young University devotional, Feb. 3, 1998), 1–10, speeches.byu.edu.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “Surely there is a way for people of goodwill who love God and have taken upon themselves the name of Christ to stand together for the cause of Christ and against the forces of sin” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “[Standing Together for the Cause of Christ](#),” 44).

Mar 22 - Class 9: Islam

Suggested Lesson Material

- <https://rsc.byu.edu/light-truth/islam> - Roger R. Keller, "Islam," *Light and Truth: A Latter-day Saint Guide to World Religions* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2012), 268–87.
- Hugh Nibley, “[Islam and Mormonism—a Comparison](#),” *Ensign*, Mar. 1972, 55–64.
- James A. Toronto, “[A Latter-day Saint Perspective on Muhammad](#),” *Ensign*, Aug. 2000, 50–58.
- Spencer J. Palmer and others, *Religions of the World* [1997], Brigham Young University, 213–42.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- “A well-known teaching in Islam is that ‘we come out from God and to him we shall return’” (Nibley, “[Islam and Mormonism—a Comparison](#),” 64).

Mar 29 - Class 10: Factions from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Suggested Lesson Material

- Russell R. Rich, "[Nineteenth-Century Break-offs](#)," *Ensign*, Sept. 1979, 68–71.
- Milton V. Backman Jr., "[A Warning from Kirtland](#)," *Ensign*, Apr. 1989, 26–30.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- "The groundwork for the Restoration took many years to lay, yet hardly had the Church been organized when men began to break off and form other organizations. There are many reasons for such active dissent, and most of the reasons still apply among people who leave the Church today to found other groups: an obsession with one teaching rather than finding a balanced view, disagreement with a Church position or principle—especially when a change is made—and disobedience to priesthood leaders and their authority" (Rich, "[Nineteenth-Century Break-offs](#)," 68).

Apr 5 - Class 11: Living Prophets and Apostles

Suggested Lesson Material

- Jeffrey R. Holland, "[Prophets, Seers, and Revelators](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2004, 6–9.
- Neil L. Andersen, "[The Prophet of God](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2018, 24–27.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- "Are the heavens open? Does God reveal His will to prophets and apostles as in days of old? That they are and that He does is the unflinching declaration of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to all the world" ("[Prophets, Seers, and Revelators](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2004, 8).

Apr 12 - Class 12: The Canon of Scripture

Suggested Lesson Material

- Russell M. Nelson, "[Scriptural Witnesses](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 43–46.
- Jeffrey R. Holland, "[My Words ... Never Cease](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May, 2008, 91–94.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- "Scriptures of the Restoration do not compete with the Bible; they complement the Bible" (Russell M. Nelson, "[Scriptural Witnesses](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 43).

Apr 19 - Class 13: A Light to the World / The Global Church

Suggested Lesson Material

- M. Russell Ballard, "[Faith, Family, Facts, and Fruits](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007, 25–27.
- Von G. Keetch, "An Example of the Believers" (Brigham Young University–Idaho devotional, June 14, 2016, byui.edu).

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- "The growing prominence of the Church and the increasing inquiries from others present us with great opportunities to build bridges, make friends, and pass on accurate information" (M. Russell Ballard, "[Faith, Family, Facts, and Fruits](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2007).

Suggested Lesson Material

- [Daniel 2:34–35, 44–45; Doctrine and Covenants 65:2](#).
- Howard W. Hunter, "[The Gospel—a Global Faith](#)," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 18–19.
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "[The Global Church Blessed by the Voice of the Prophets](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 10–12.

Key Doctrine, Principles, and Concepts

- "Mormonism, so-called, is a world religion, not simply because its members are now found throughout the world, but chiefly because it has a comprehensive and inclusive message based upon the acceptance of all truth, restored to meet the needs of all mankind" (Howard W. Hunter, "[The Gospel—a Global Faith](#)," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 18–19).