



EQUIPPED

Sharing your faith in a complex world

A background image of a stained glass window with various colored panes (red, yellow, blue, green) and a bright light source in the upper left corner, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere.

***To Know God
and Make
Him Known***



cults and sects



exclusive

secretive

authoritarian

Usually claim to be biblically-based,
Christian organizations

All cults deny or redefine any or all
essential Christian doctrines

Sects may adhere officially to essential
Christian teachings while exhibiting
other characteristics of cults or sects.

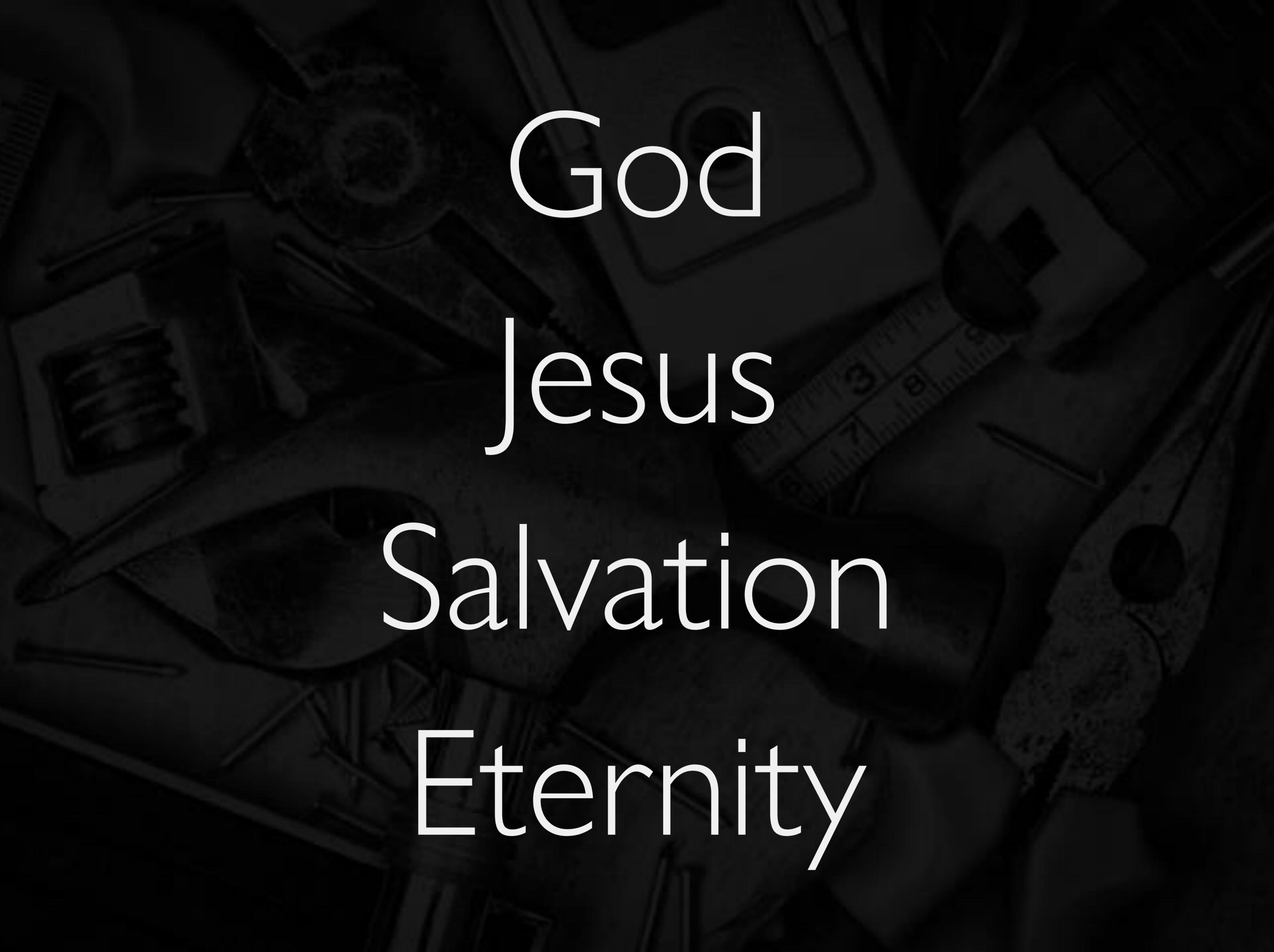
Cults and sects usually claim to possess a new and inspired written scripture that supplements or supersedes the authority of the Bible.

Cults and sects usually claim to be the only true (or the most true) church in the world.

Cults and sects usually claim to be led by divinely inspired leaders.

Major Cults and Sects in North America:

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- Christian Science
- The Way International
- Unity School of Christianity



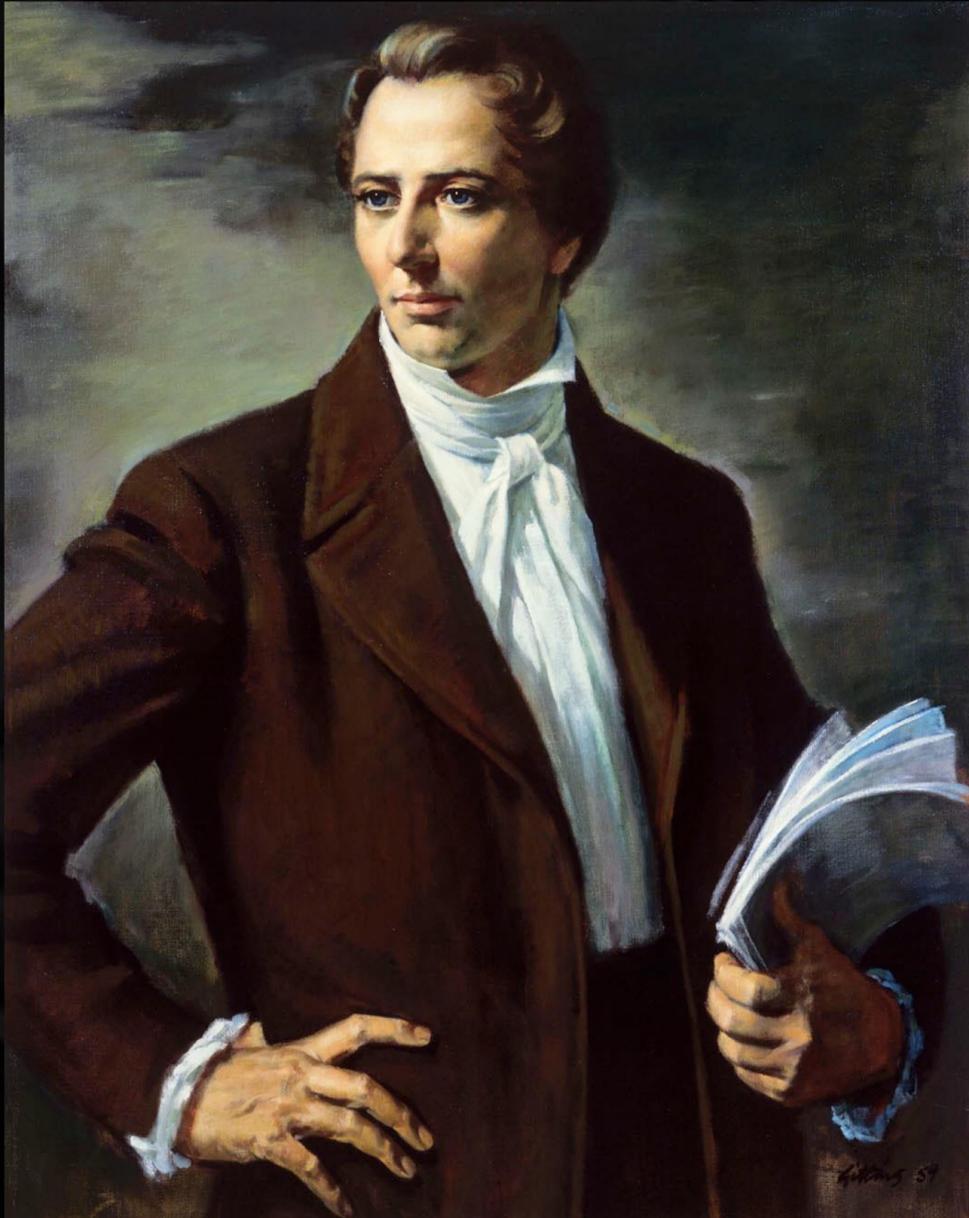
God

Jesus

Salvation

Eternity

MORMONISM



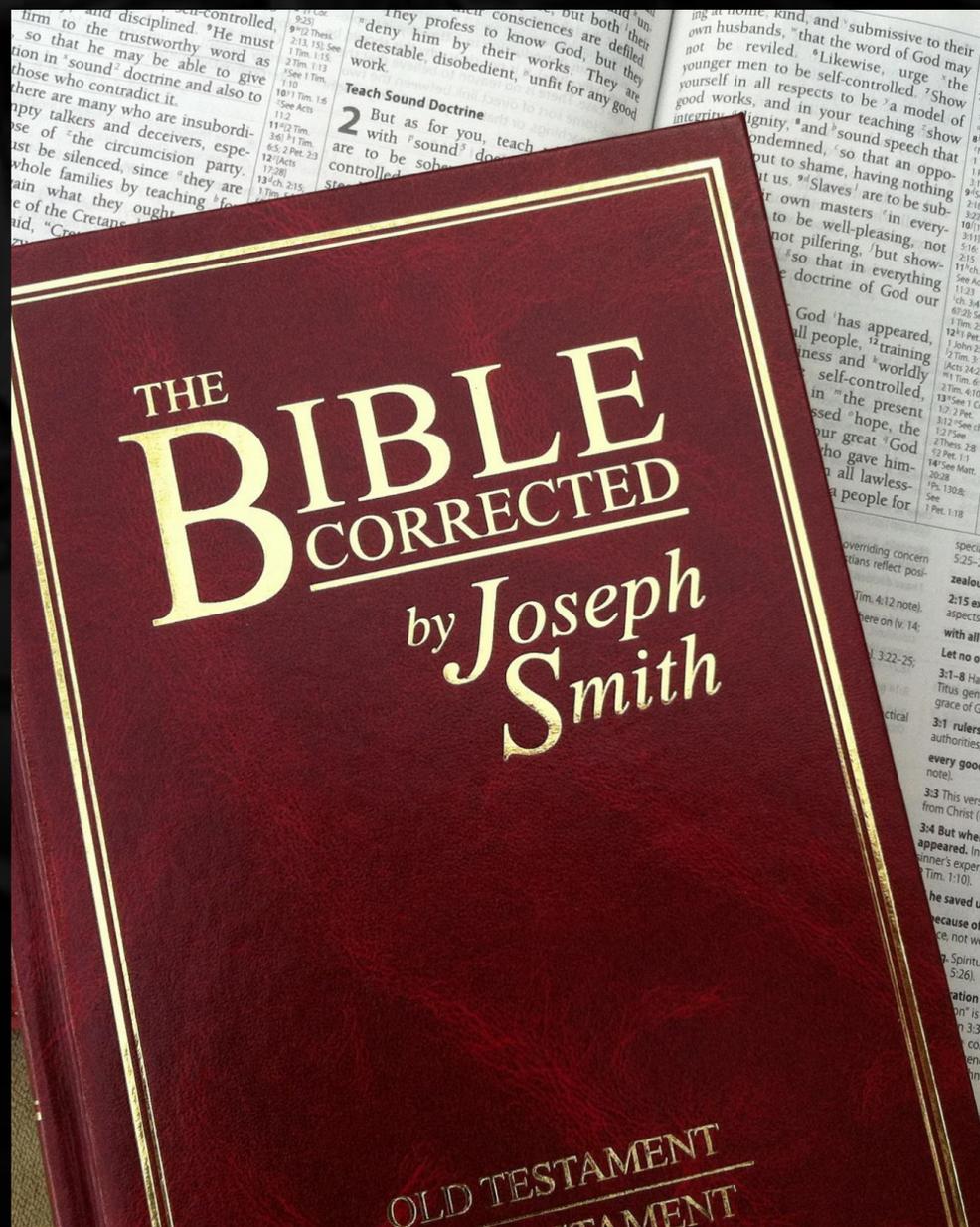
- Founded in 1830 in Palmyra, New York by Joseph Smith Jr.
- Vision of the Heavenly Father and Jesus told him all churches were apostate since the time of the Apostles (1820 at age 14)
- Translated “golden plates” that contained the Book of Mormon (1827)

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sacred Texts

King James Version of the Bible - where translated correctly

Book of Mormon - translated from golden plates via a seer stone and the urim and thummim



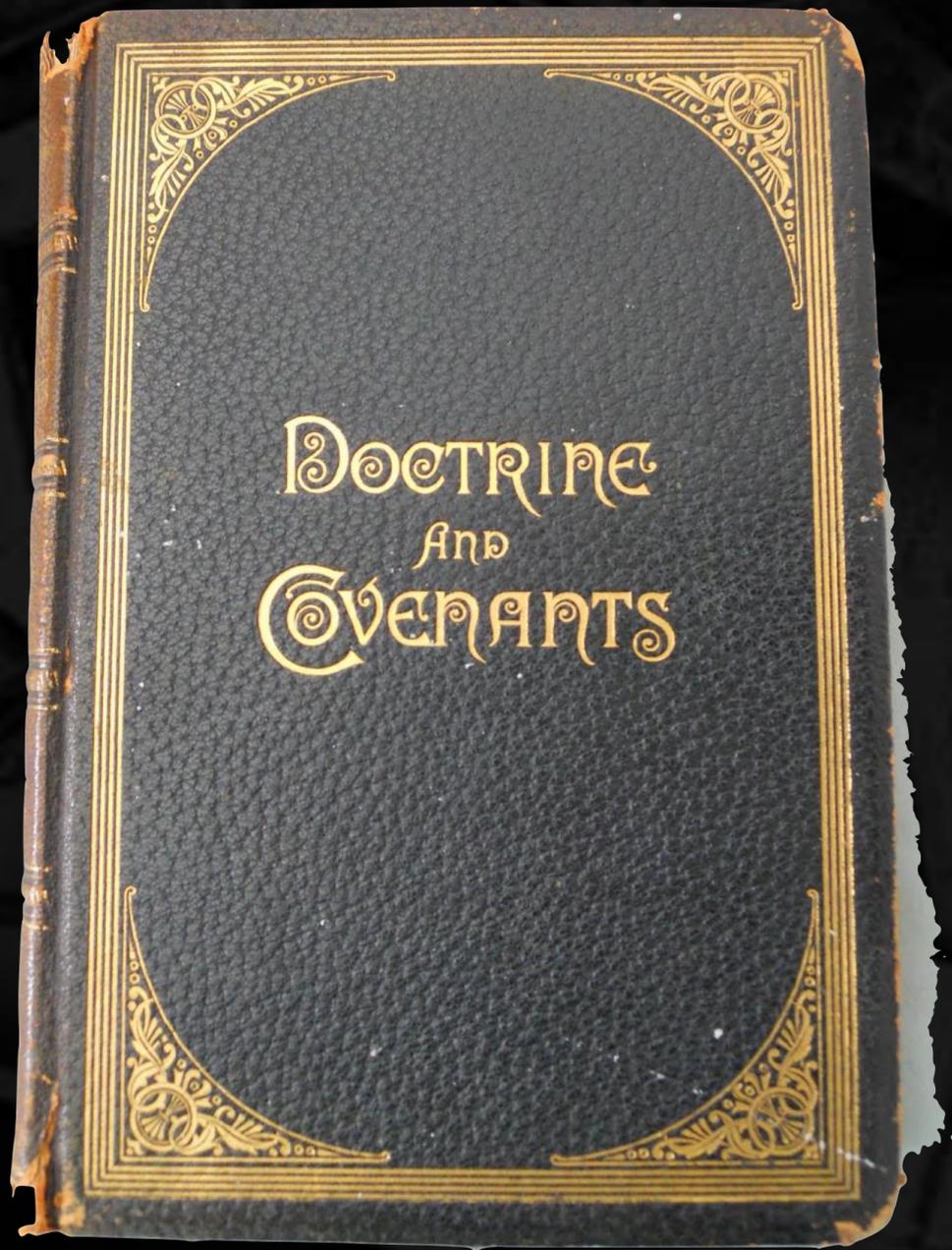
I will now give you a
description of the manner
in which the Book of
Mormon was translated...

MORMONISM

Sacred Texts

Doctrine and Covenants -
“revelations” of god to
Mormon leaders from
Joseph Smith to present

Pearl of Great Price



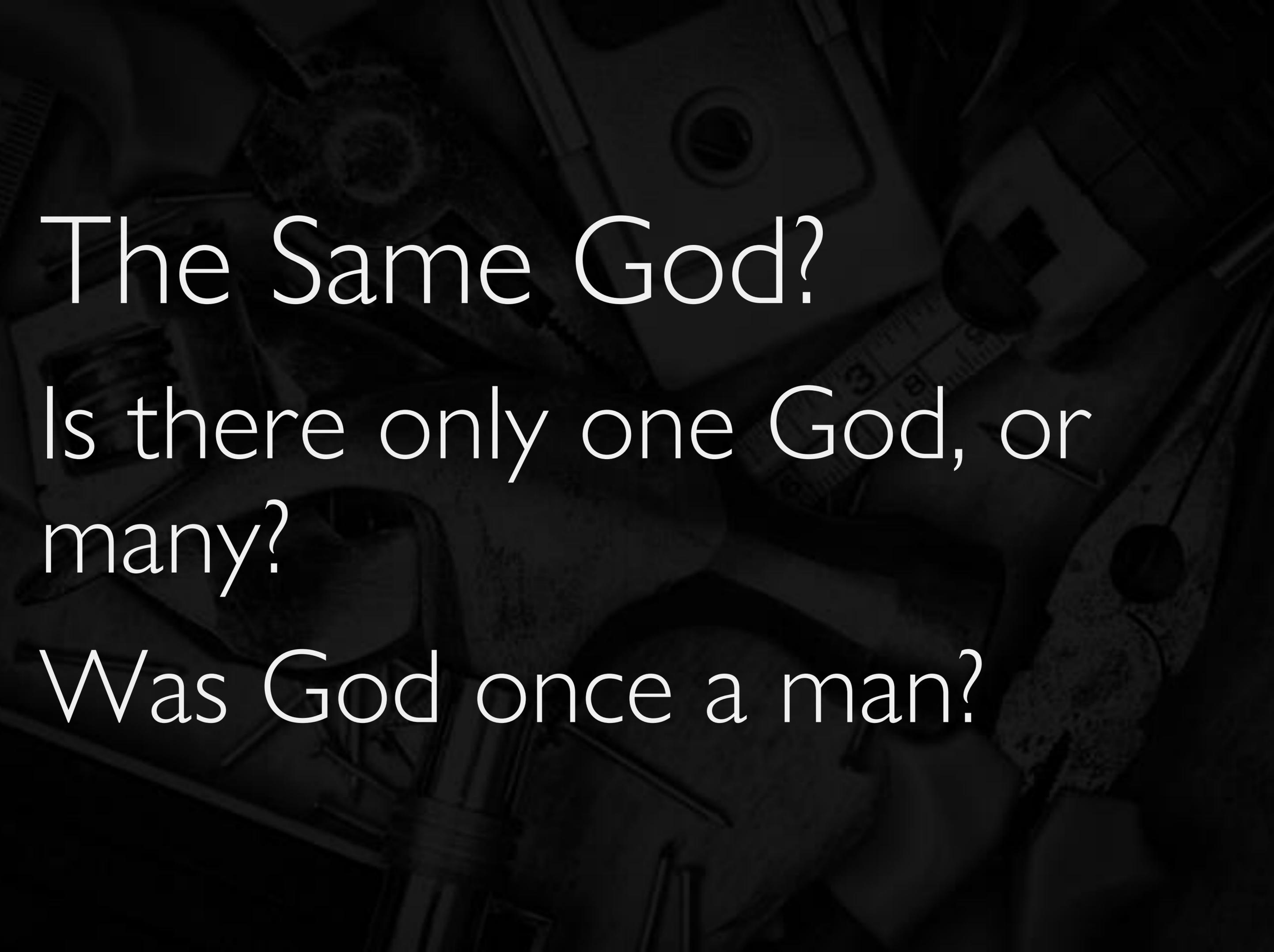
God

One of an infinite number of gods who have created an infinite number of worlds

God the Father (Elohim) was once a man, but has become a god and was put in place as the god of our world by the heads of the gods.

All faithful men may one day become gods as well

Has a physical body and a wife



The Same God?

Is there only one God, or
many?

Was God once a man?

Jesus

Pre-existed as Jehovah, Elohim's spirit son through procreation with Mother in Heaven, is the "elder brother" of all men and spirit beings, and achieved godhood prior to coming to earth

Jesus

The physical son of Heavenly Father
(who has a physical body) and Mary

Was married

Died on the cross to provide
resurrection for all mankind, but sin
must still be atoned for through
being a faithful Mormon.

Salvation

All men are saved by the death of Jesus on the cross

Salvation is being part of the resurrection of all mankind provided by Jesus' death on the cross

Salvation

Eternal life is only available to faithful Mormons

Eternal life is the ability to become a god

Faith in Christ

Be Repentant

Be Baptized LDS

Laying on of hands

Ordained into the
Melchizedek Priesthood

Temple Rituals

Celestial Marriage

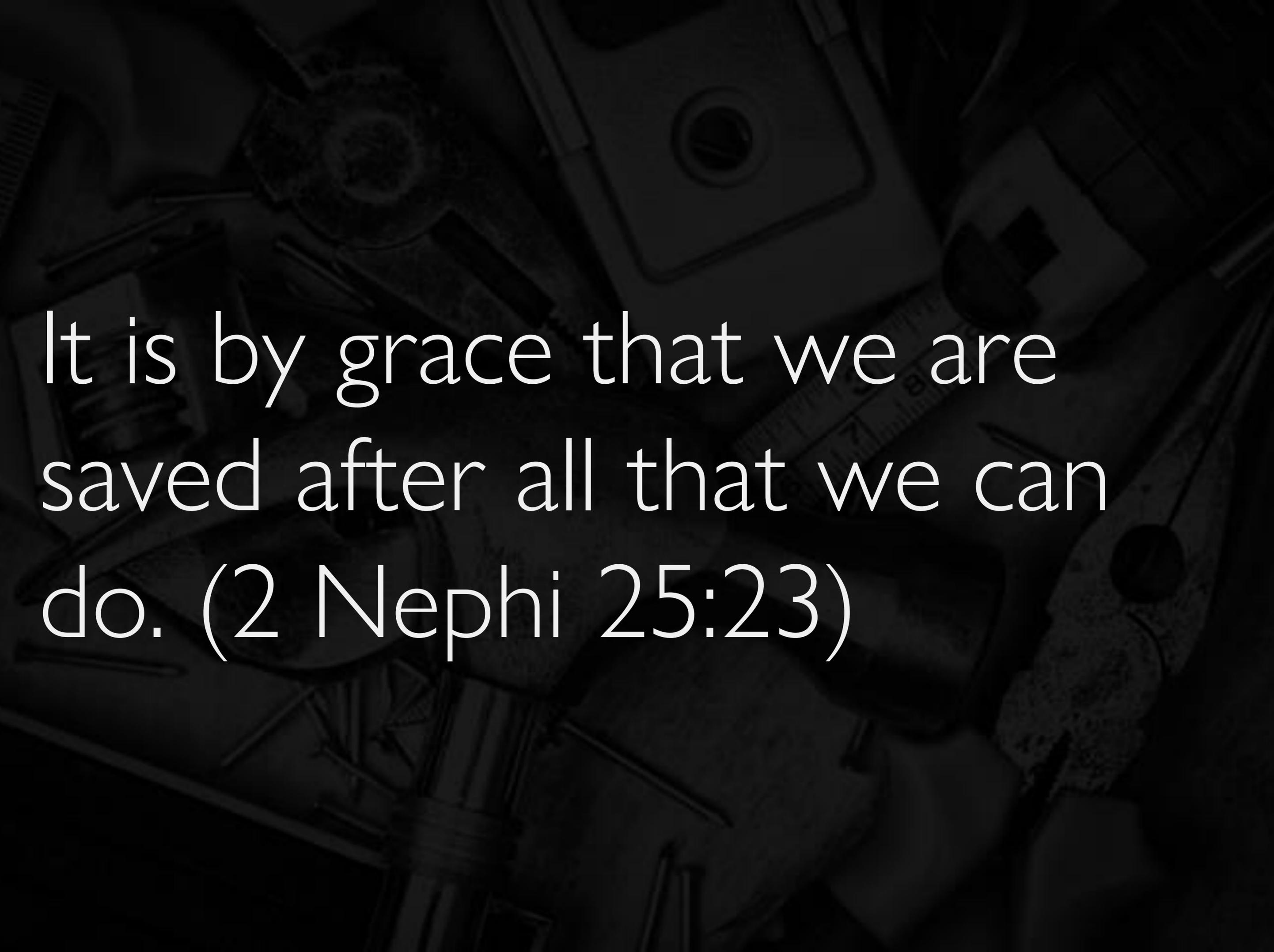
Word of Wisdom - no
caffeine, alcohol, or
tobacco

Sustain (obey, honor)
the prophet

Tithe

Attend weekly meetings

Obey the church



It is by grace that we are
saved after all that we can
do. (2 Nephi 25:23)

Eternity

Temporary as spirit beings
(Paradise or Prison)

Forever as resurrected people
(1 of 3 levels of Paradise or Hell)

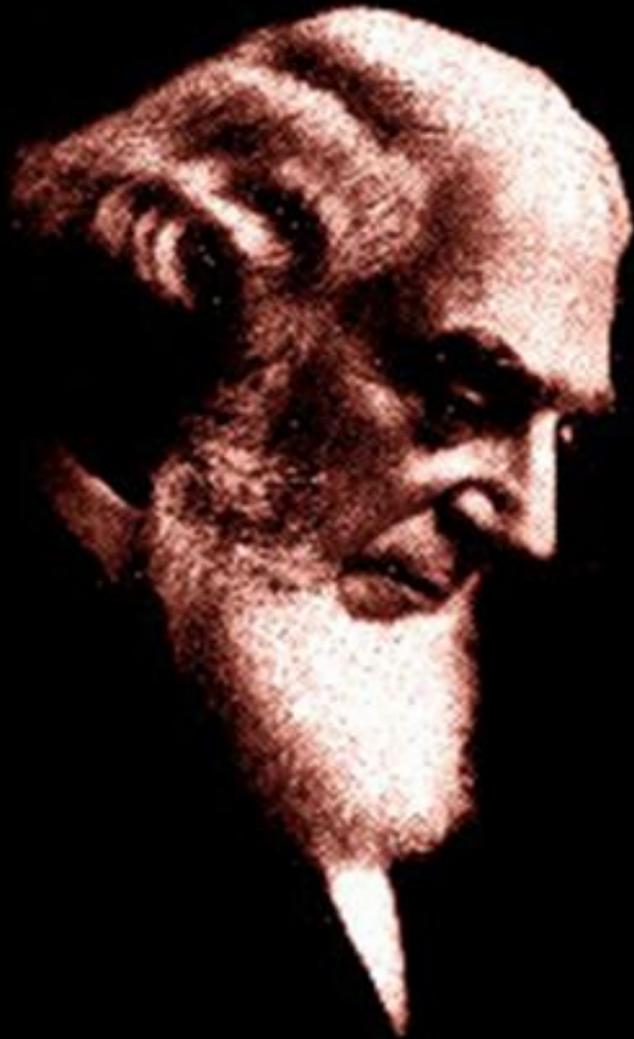
A different God

A different Jesus

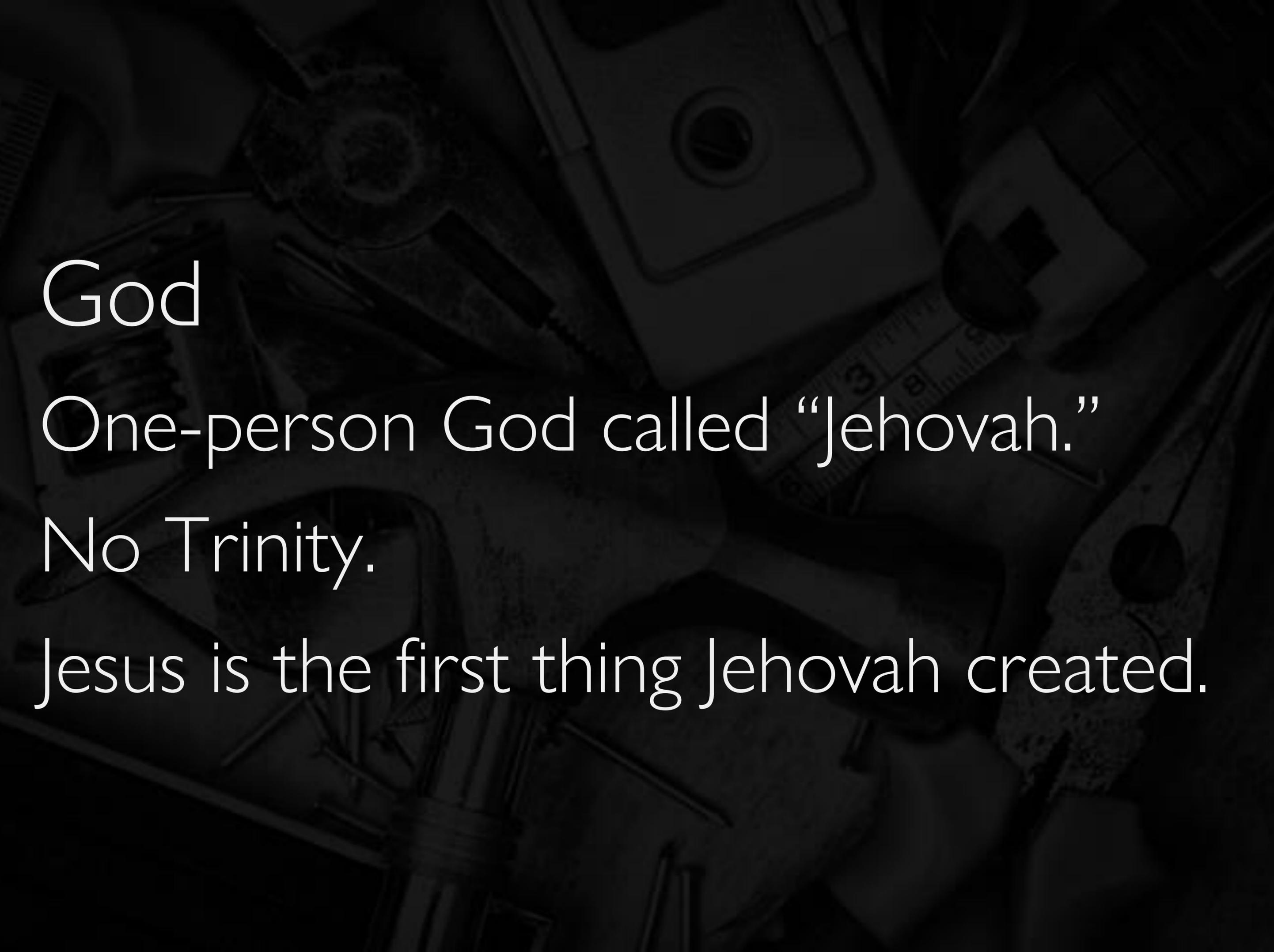
A redefined Salvation

A different eternity

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



- Founded by Charles Taze Russel
- 1879 in Pittsburgh
- Viewed themselves as a “restoration” of the first century church focused on the imminent end of civilization with the return of Jesus.



God

One-person God called “Jehovah.”

No Trinity.

Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.

Jesus

- The Jehovah's Witnesses' Jesus is not God.
- Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel.
- Jehovah made the universe through him.
- On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life.
- After dying on a stake (not a cross), he was resurrected as a spirit.
- He is not coming again; he already "returned" invisibly in 1914 in spirit.
- Very soon, he and the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah's Witnesses.

Salvation

- Be baptized as a Jehovah's Witness.
- Most followers must earn everlasting life on earth by "door-to-door work."
- Salvation in heaven is limited to 144,000 "anointed ones." (This number has already been reached.)

Eternity

- The 144,000 “anointed ones” live as spirits in heaven.
- The rest of the righteous (“the great crowd”) live on earth and must obey God perfectly for 1,000 years or be annihilated.
- There is no hell, all non-witnesses will be annihilated.

Unique traits

- No holidays, patriotism, blood transfusions
- New World Translation of the Bible (1961)

A different God

A different Jesus

A redefined Salvation

A different eternity



So What?

Mormonism is the perfect
faith for rugged, boot-strap,
self-reliant men and
women...

except it's false

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface featuring faint, light-colored outlines of various tools. These tools include a wrench, a screwdriver, and pliers, arranged in a somewhat chaotic but recognizable pattern. The overall aesthetic is technical and industrial.

Cultists believe a
fabricated
revelation

“I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ. In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with arguments that sound reasonable.**”

(Colossians 2:2–4, CSB)

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface featuring a variety of tools and instruments, including wrenches, screwdrivers, and sockets, arranged in a somewhat chaotic pattern. The tools are rendered in a lighter shade of gray, creating a subtle, industrial aesthetic.

Cultists serve a
false God

““You are my witnesses”— this is the LORD’s declaration— “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

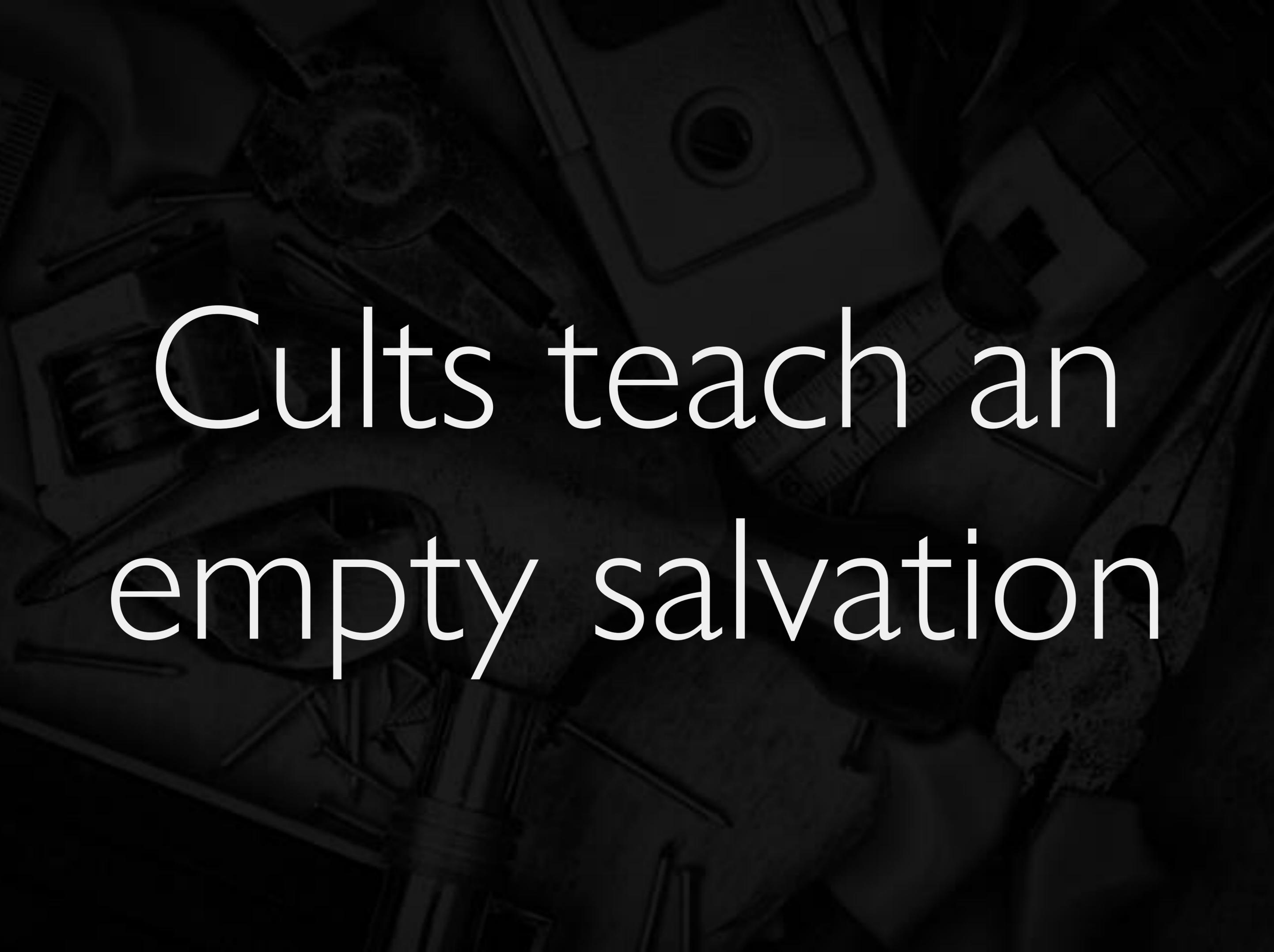
No god was formed before me, and there will be none after me.” (Isaiah 43:10, CSB)

“This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says: **I am the first and I am the last. There is no God but me.** Who, like me, can announce the future? Let him say so and make a case before me, since I have established an ancient people. Let these gods declare the coming things, and what will take place. Do not be startled or afraid. Have I not told you and declared it long ago? You are my witnesses!

Is there any God but me? There is no other Rock; I do not know any.” (Isaiah 44:6–8, CSB)



Cultists follow a
different Jesus

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface covered with faint, light-colored outlines of various tools and instruments. These include what appear to be surgical instruments like scalpels, forceps, and probes, as well as other mechanical tools. The overall aesthetic is technical and somewhat somber due to the dark tones.

Cults teach an
empty salvation

“For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law. But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, attested by the Law and the Prophets. The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. They are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

(Romans 3:20–24, CSB)

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”

(Ephesians 2:8–9, CSB)

Lovingly stand against
the falsehood and
deception of modern
cults

Galatians 1:8–9 (NET)

But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be condemned to hell! As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be condemned to hell!



Know your faith

“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

(1 Peter 3:15, CSB)

It's not about being "right" or
defeating someone in an argument,

It's about eternity.

Continue memorizing 1 Peter 3:15

Pray for “Christian” cult members to experience revival and welcome the genuine Jesus of the Scriptures, not a man-made replica

Stand firmly upon the truth of Scripture

Love, but do not seek to please your Mormon or JW neighbor by compromising the truth of God

“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

(1 Peter 3:15, CSB)