

Catholic & Protestant Doctrines Debunked

Unbiblical Traditions Exposed with LDS Response

1. CREATION FROM NOTHING (CREATIO EX NIHILO)

What They Claim:

God created universe from absolute NOTHING—no pre-existing matter, no materials. Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox all teach this. Official at Fourth Lateran Council (1215 AD).

Biblical Problems:

Genesis 1:1-2: "In the beginning when God created... the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep... over the face of the waters."

→ Describes pre-existing chaos (tohu wa-bohu, tehom, mayim) BEFORE organization
→ Hebrew *bara* = formed/fashioned, not "from nothing"

Hebrews 11:3: "Things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

→ Visible things made from INVISIBLE elements (atoms, energy, spirit matter)
→ Greek *katartizō* = to prepare, put in order
→ NOT "made from nothing"

Job 38:4-7: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

→ "Laid foundations" = building language (using materials)
→ Pre-existing intelligent beings present at creation

Proverbs 8:22-30 (Wisdom/Christ): "The LORD possessed me in the beginning... When he prepared the heavens... when he set a compass upon the face of the depth... when he appointed the foundations of the earth."

→ ORGANIZING language, not creating from nothing

Justin Martyr (100-165 AD): "He in the beginning did... create all things out of unformed matter." (First Apology, 10)

→ Early church taught creation from PRE-EXISTING materials

LDS Position:

Abraham 3:24: "We will take of these materials, and we will make an earth."

Abraham 4:1: "The Gods organized and formed the heavens and the earth."

D&C 93:29: "Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be."

→ God organized eternal matter/intelligence (more impressive than speaking into void)

2. HYPOSTATIC UNION

What They Claim:

Jesus is ONE PERSON with TWO NATURES (fully God + fully man) united without mixing. Defined at Council of Chalcedon (451 AD). Catholics, Orthodox, most Protestants believe this.

Biblical Problems:

Acts 7:55-56: Stephen "saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God."

→ TWO separate beings, not one person with two natures

John 14:28: "My Father is greater than I."

→ Jesus HIMSELF says Father is greater
→ Not "My human nature is less"—He says "I" (His whole person)

Mark 13:32: "Of that day and that hour knoweth no man... neither the Son, but the Father."

→ Jesus doesn't know the time of His return
→ If His "divine nature" knew, why lie and say He doesn't?
→ Creates split personality: part knows, part doesn't = TWO persons

Luke 2:52: "Jesus increased in wisdom."

→ If fully God (omniscient), how does He grow in wisdom?
→ Incoherent: person can't be simultaneously omniscient AND learning

Logical Contradiction: If natures COMMUNICATE attributes → Jesus is omniscient AND not omniscient (impossible). If they DON'T communicate → TWO persons (Nestorianism, condemned heresy).

LDS Position:

D&C 130:22: "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also."

Joseph Smith - First Vision: "I saw two Personages... One of them spake... pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son."

→ Father and Son are SEPARATE embodied beings, not one person with two natures

Hebrews 1:6: "Firstbegotten" (Greek *prototokos* = firstborn)

Hebrews 5:8-9: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect."

→ Jesus is firstborn spirit child, learned/progressed, became perfect through experience

3. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

What They Claim:

Virgin Mary conceived WITHOUT original sin—preserved from sin from her conception. Catholic dogma (1854). NOT about Jesus's virgin birth. Protestants/Orthodox REJECT this.

Biblical Problems:

Luke 1:47: "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

→ Mary calls God her "Saviour"
→ If sinless, why need a Savior?

Romans 3:23: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

→ "All" includes Mary (no exceptions listed)

Hebrews 4:15: Only Jesus described as "without sin."

1 Peter 2:22, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 John 3:5: Only Jesus "knew no sin," "in him is no sin."

→ If Mary also sinless, why NEVER mentioned?

Jesus's sinlessness doesn't require Mary's: Adam created sinless without sinless parents. Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary (Luke 1:35)—miraculous conception preserved Jesus, not Mary's supposed sinlessness.

Early Church Fathers DIDN'T teach this: Augustine said "all sinned in Adam" with NO exception for Mary. Thomas Aquinas REJECTED Immaculate Conception. Doctrine defined 1854—19th century innovation.

LDS Position:

Luke 1:28, 30: "Highly favoured... thou hast found favour with God."

→ Mary chosen for righteousness, NOT sinless from conception
1 Nephi 11:13-18: "A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins."

→ Exceptional righteousness, but NOT sinless—she needed Atonement like all humans

4. ORIGINAL SIN

What They Claim:

All humans inherit GUILT and CORRUPTED NATURE from Adam's sin. Born guilty, deserving damnation, unable to choose good. Catholics baptize infants to remove guilt. Calvinists teach Total Depravity.

Biblical Problems:

Romans 5:12 (correct translation): "Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

→ Greek *eph hō pantes hēmarton* = "BECAUSE all sinned"
→ NOT "in whom all sinned" (Augustine's Latin mistranslation)
→ We die because WE sin, not because Adam sinned

Ezekiel 18:20: "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father... every man shall be put to death for his own sin."

→ Clear as day: children DO NOT inherit father's guilt

Deuteronomy 24:16: "Every man shall be put to death for his own sin."

2 Corinthians 5:10: Judged for what "he hath done."
→ Individual accountability, not inherited guilt

Matthew 18:3: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

→ If children born totally depraved/guilty, why become LIKE THEM to enter heaven?

Matthew 19:14: "Suffer little children... for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

→ Children belong to heaven—not born damned

LDS Position:

Articles of Faith 1:2: "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression."

→ Clearest possible rejection of Original Sin

Moroni 8:8, 10-12: "Little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin... Little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world."

D&C 29:46-47: "Little children are redeemed from the foundation of the world through mine Only Begotten... they cannot sin, for power is not given unto Satan to tempt little children, until they begin to become accountable."

D&C 137:10: "All children who die before... accountability are saved in the celestial kingdom."

→ Children innocent until age ~8, automatically saved if they die young

5. THE RAPTURE

What They Claim:

Jesus will secretly return to "catch up" believers BEFORE tribulation (1 Thess 4:16-17). Pre-trib rapture popular among Evangelicals/Baptists. Catholics/Orthodox/Lutherans REJECT separate rapture.

Biblical Problems:

1 Thess 4:16-17: "The Lord... shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God... caught up together... in the clouds."

→ LOUD, not secret: shout, archangel, trumpet
→ This is Second Coming, not separate rapture

Matthew 24:29-31: "Immediately AFTER the tribulation... they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds... with a great sound of a trumpet... shall gather together his elect."

→ Order: (1) Tribulation FIRST, (2) THEN cosmic signs, (3) THEN Christ's coming, (4) THEN gathering

→ No pre-tribulation rapture

Matthew 24:37-41: "As the days of Noe... the flood came, and took them all away... Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

→ Who was "taken" in Noah's day? The WICKED (drowned)
→ Who was "left"? Noah (safe in ark)

→ "Taken" = taken in JUDGMENT (wicked removed)
→ "Left" = left to inherit earth (righteous remain)

→ OPPOSITE of rapture theology

Doctrine invented by John Nelson Darby (1830). ZERO early church fathers taught it. ZERO Reformers (Luther, Calvin, Wesley). ZERO creeds mention it. Popularized by Scofield Bible (1909), Hal Lindsey (1970), Left Behind (1995-2007). It's 19th century American invention, not apostolic doctrine.

LDS Position:

D&C 45:44-46: "I will come... in the clouds... before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trump, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the cloud."

D&C 88:96-98: "The saints... shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him."

→ "Caught up" language same as 1 Thess 4:17, but context is Second Coming (visible, glorious), NOT pre-trib rapture

D&C 45:68-69: "Every man... must needs flee unto Zion for safety... it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another."

→ Righteous gather to Zion (New Jerusalem) for PROTECTION during tribulation—not raptured away

Doctrine	Catholic/Protestant Claim	Biblical Problem	LDS Position
Creatio Ex Nihilo	God created from nothing	Gen 1:2 describes pre-existing chaos; Heb 11:3 = visible from invisible	God organized eternal matter/intelligence (Abr 3:24, D&C 93:29)
Hypostatic Union	Jesus = one person, two natures	Creates contradictions; Bible shows Father/Son as separate (Acts 7:55-56)	Father/Son separate embodied beings; Jesus firstborn spirit child (D&C 130:22)
Immaculate Conception	Mary conceived without sin	Mary calls God "my Saviour" (Luke 1:47); "all have sinned" (Rom 3:23)	Mary righteous/chosen, but needed Atonement like all (1 Ne 11:13-18)
Original Sin	Inherit Adam's guilt/nature	Ezek 18:20 denies inherited guilt; children innocent (Matt 18:3, 19:14)	Punished for OUR sins, not Adam's; children innocent until ~8 (Aof 1:2, Moro 8)
The Rapture	Secret rapture before tribulation	Matt 24:29 says elect gathered AFTER tribulation; invented 1830	No rapture; gathering at visible Second Coming; saints endure tribulation (D&C 45)

The Pattern: Man-Made Doctrines vs. Revealed Truth

• NONE clearly in Bible (require interpretation, tradition)

• ALL developed CENTURIES after Christ (Chalcedon 451 AD, Lateran 1215 AD, Immaculate Conception 1854 AD, Rapture 1830 AD)

• ALL contradict clear biblical passages

• Exactly what we'd expect from Great Apostasy: truth replaced by Greek philosophy, medieval Mariology, Augustinian pessimism, American dispensationalism