



# **The Mormon Mirage: A Former Member Looks at the Mormon Church Today**

*Latayne C. Scott*

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## **The Mormon Mirage: A Former Member Looks at the Mormon Church Today** Latayne C. Scott

In the first edition of *The Mormon Mirage*, Latayne C. Scott shared her remarkable journey out of Mormonism as she uncovered shocking inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and contradictions in the faith she had loved and lived. Thirty years later, Mormonism and Mormon scholarship have evolved with the times. In this third, revised and updated edition of her well-known book, Scott keeps pace with changes and advances in Mormonism, and reveals formidable new challenges to its claims and teachings. *The Mormon Mirage* provides fascinating, carefully documented insights into \* DNA research's withering implications for the Book of Mormon \* the impact of new 'revelations' on Latter-day Saint (LDS) race relations \* new findings about Mormon history \* increasing publicity about LDS splinter groups, particularly polygamous ones \* recent disavowals of long-held doctrines by church leadership \* the rise of Mormon apologetics on the Internet More than a riveting, insider's scrutiny of the Mormon faith, this book is a testimony to the trustworthiness of Scripture and the grace of Jesus Christ.

## **The Mormon Mirage: A Former Member Looks at the Mormon Church Today Details**

Date : Published (first published January 1st 1979)

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# **From Reader Review The Mormon Mirage: A Former Member Looks at the Mormon Church Today for online ebook**

## **Dwight says**

Excellent book written by a former Mormon.

Gives insight into the changing doctrines of the Mormons, points out difficulties that the church is currently having, and lists current doctrines which current Mormons would attest to that disqualify the group from Christianity.

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## **Bishop says**

Latayne is a very good writer and her book on her Mormon experience is very well written and compelling. As is often said about a very good book, "I could not put it down." I learned much from this book of the Mormon experience as seen through the eyes of the author. Her own story was quite moving as she recounted how she was compelled by the evidence and her conscience to leave the church that she loved and that meant so much to her. She tells of her painful loss and the intense grief that followed as well as how she was able to recover her faith in God within an Evangelical Christian context. She also gives a very thoughtful and intelligent survey of Mormon history and belief. I think that many Roman Catholics who are presently struggling with the institutional abuse of their own church would find that they could identify with the similar institutional abuse of the Mormon hierarchy. The parallels between the two religious institutions are remarkably similar. It demonstrates what can happen when a religious institution over reaches itself and begins to make extravagant claims of authority for itself. This book by Scott is not just another polemic leveled at the LDS Church but rather an honest reflection of a very personal journey of a woman of deep faith and commitment to truth. I highly recommend this book!

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## **Josh says**

The biographical information on Scott really enhances this book. I thought it was clear. She's a former Mormon. She talks of how much she loved this religion as a member. She does have a desire to expose truth in this book, but I felt that she was fair and even handed. I think that this book provides an excellent introduction to some of the theology and beliefs of Mormonism.

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## **Gabrielchaves26 says**

Excellent book about Mormonism from an ex-mormon and now member of the Church. Very well written and informative. Changed my entire view of the LDS movement. An excellent book for anyone interested about LDS beliefs to read!

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## Ruth says

Writing with skill and grace, former Mormon Latayne Scott offers a loving treatise on why she left Mormonism. Her writing is skillful, at times even entertaining. Her documentation is outstanding. What impressed me most of all, though, was that while she pulled no punches in her presentation of the dark side of Mormonism, the love and respect that she still has for Mormons and Mormonism shines through on every page. This really is a remarkable book. It is detailed, scrupulously documented, and still highly readable.

It also makes a nice contrast after having just read Allan Bloom, who in *The American Religion* praised Mormonism to the skies without offering a single critique.

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## Andy says

Latayne C. Scott is a scholar of both Mormonism and Christianity with a heart for sharing her Christian faith with her former church, the Latter-day Saints. This book is a detailed challenge to Mormon doctrine that exposes its historical, archaeological and scientific inaccuracies. It is also a well-reasoned argument for Biblical Christianity.

Here are a few excerpts:

"It wasn't easy to leave. I owed, and still owe, The church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members a great debt of gratitude...

But [now:] I am regarded by them as a traitor and an apostate. I left Mormonism after tasting some of its sweetest fruits. " (17)

"...I believe that someone who has not lived a doctrine has no ground to criticize it – just as grade-school science student cannot reasonable speak with authority on nuclear physics. I lived Mormonism; I loved it – and I left it." (19)

"The greatest battles a cult can wage over the soul of the ignorant person, I believe, are already won when the proselyte is too lazy, or afraid, or unwilling to see a more correct interpretation of Scripture passage that is presented to teach a supposedly "new" doctrine. We have nothing to fear but ourselves when we ignore the admonition to "search the Scriptures." (26)

Disclaimer: I work for this publisher. I still believe it's an excellent book, but if you're reading this and you don't know me personally, I thought it fair to mention that. Blessings, AR.

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## Carole Parma says

I read this years ago, and have not read this updated version, but it was a valuable resource for a paper I wrote in college. Ex-Mormons can reveal the deception of the Mormon Church like nobody else. I would recommend Carma Naylor's books as well, if you are looking for information in order to help a Mormon friend see the truth of Biblical Christianity.

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## **Krisko Isackson says**

I really wish the promotional materials had made it clear that this was a book about switching from one version of right-wing Christianity (Mormonism) to another (evangelical Christianity). I'm sure other Christians would like this book to justify that their flavor of religion is the right one. But I couldn't help reading this and being amazed at how the author could scrutinize the contradictions and logical fallacies in the Book of Mormon, but not those in the Bible.

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## **Jolene says**

Well written and easy to read. If you're looking for a memoir this is not it, rather it's a history of how the Mormon church was founded and the changes that have been made to keep it more mainstream. The irony in the changes is that Joseph Smith proclaimed to have restored the perfect church. If it was so perfect...why all the changes?

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## **Dina (ReviewTime) says**

### **What's Inside**

The Mormon Mirage is a collection of Mrs.Scott's finding from years of research as a devout Mormon. The 3rd edition is the latest version of her book, in this edition you will also find her more recent research and opinions. Mrs.Scott writes in a conversational non-scholarly tone, and is very strait forward in her statements. In the back of this book you will find many references so that you can do your own research and draw your own conclusions.

### **Table Contents**

#### **Part One**

1. A Gentle Apostasy: Mrs. Scott's personal history and conversion story.
2. The Joseph Smith Story: The of life Joseph Smith from Mormon, Non-Mormon, and Ex-Mormon sources.
3. The Book of Mormon: " The Most Correct of Any Book"?: Information about the Book of Mormon, how it was transitioned, its contents, what it means to Mormons today.
4. One Bible, Two Books of Commandments, and Unlimited Wives: How Mormons view the Bible and the translations used by the LDS church. The history, contents and teachings of the LDS Scripture "The Doctrine and Covenants".
5. The Perils of the Pearl: The history, contents and teachings of the LDS Scripture "The Pearl of Great Price".
6. The Precarious Summit of Continuing Revelation: The different groups who follow Joseph Smith's teachings. The nature, and mechanics of LDS Revelation. Joseph Smith's successors and continuing revelation.
7. The Mormon Pantheon: Topics covered in this section are the eternity of man, the idea of preexistence, the Mormon veiw of God ,The belief that one may attain godhood (or goddesshood), The Mormon view of God as a progressive being, the Adam-God doctrine, the Mormon view of Christ, his conception, marriages, other

LDS doctrine, the Mormon view of the Holy Ghost, the Mormon view of Satan and evil spirits. the Mormon view of angels as resurrected and translated beings.

8. Salvation and Exaltation: The idea of Salvation vs Exaltation, The Mormon view of Baptism, Baptism for the dead and Proxy Baptism. The different types of Endowment for Exaltation, Temple Ceremonies, Sins which prevent Exaltation, The Mormon Doctrine of Resurrections.

## Part Two

1. Issues and Challenges Facing Mormonism in the 21st Century- Part One
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## Pros

Latayne C. Scott was a devout Mormon for 10 years, she served as a Sunday school teacher, and participated in lady's groups, and children organizations. She received her education with the help of scholarships provided by LDS for Brigham Young University. "I lived Mormonism; I loved it-and I left it." ~Latayne C. Scott

## Cons

One must always be aware when reading books written by an individual that sometimes personal opinion will come through, even when one is trying to write objectively. The reason I point this out is because she writes very passionately.

## About The Author

Latayne C. Scott is the award-winning author of over a dozen books, published by major Christian publishers such as Zondervan, Moody, Baker, Word and others. In addition, she has published poems, radio plays, and hundreds of articles in magazines such as Today's Christian Woman, Guideposts, Writer's Digest, The Upper Room, Christian Research Journal, Christian Retailing, and Military Officer. A full-time writer, she also speaks at seminars, retreats, and on television and radio programs. She is the recipient of Pepperdine University's Distinguished Christian Service Award for Creative Christian Writing, and makes her home in her native New Mexico.

Web Site: <http://www.latayne.com>

## My Personal Opinion

The Mormon Mirage is defiantly an interesting, and shocking book. According to Mrs. Scott's research the majority of Mormon beliefs are very different from traditional Christianity. Before writing this review I had never talked with a Mormon missionary, because of this I went to the LDS website and asked a Mormon missionary some questions. My questions were "What are your views of the Trinity?, Will faithful Mormons attain godhood after death? and does God the Father have a flesh and bone body?" the answers I was given were basically the scholarly version of what I found in Mrs. Scott's book. She encourages the reader to do their own research, and gives multiple references. Many of the references are Mormon books of scripture,

such as the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

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## **Lisa Cline says**

A lot of important facts in this book but the thing that I take away is her heart ache that she suffered as a result of leaving the church. Important to keep in mind. Mormons hearts are invested in this.

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## **drowningmermaid says**

I feel so torn about this one. On the one hand, it's the first 'anti-Mormon' book I've encountered in which a genuine love for Mormonism and the LDS people shines through. But that's not the only thing that shines through. Scott converted from devout Mormonism to equally devout Bible-belt Christianity, and the book is positively riddled with statements that boil down to "OH NOES! All these Mormons will BURN IN HELL FOREVER if I do not convert them one and all!!!"

There was a time when this book would have really resonated with me, when I, too, wept and prayed for my poor, lost Mormon brethren. It is terrifying to believe that the majority of the world will burn for all eternity if they do not, at some point in their lives, confess Jesus Christ as savior and lord. A bittersweet kind of terror, because with it comes the "Christian-man's burden" to lovingly cajole, browbeat, and otherwise herd the poor lost souls toward 'Jesus.'

As it stands now, though, I identify much more with her much-despised 'postmodern Christians' who view spiritual truth as relative and personal. (Yes, I do believe in 'real' truth. Some things happen. Others do not. But spirituality takes many forms that are beneficial, and not harmful.)

What I really appreciated about this book is the fact that Scott has taken the trouble to keep herself up to date. She does not only talk about the Mormonism of her day, when the LDS church taught that all Native Americans and Pacific Islanders were descended from the Lamanites described in the Book of Mormon, that blacks were inherently spiritually inferior, that Joseph Smith was a real, literal translator.

Since all these major doctrinal points that Mormons used to believe have been pretty well disproven, Mormonism has morphed in recent decades, changing its beliefs and even the text of its scripture to fit what is now known. Lamanites are now "among" the ancestors of the Native Americans, blacks are fine, Joseph Smith's 'translations' were inspired imaginings that he got from looking at papyri. (This despite the fact that he also created his own made-up alphabet for his imaginary version of Egyptian, told people he was a translator, and gave speeches using his made-up version of Egyptian. To me, this proves that he thought of himself, or desired himself to be thought of, as a real, literal translator in the common sense.) Scott addresses these and other LDS attempts to muddy the waters and/or offer convincing to those who wish to be convinced clearly and concisely.

She also includes a lot of wonderful LDS flavor: means of determining whether you are facing an evil spirit, the fear of water, and the deep sense of love and loss that she still feels for having lost her spiritual family.

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## **Homeschoolmama says**

I'd thought this book was what the summary on Goodreads says: "Latayne C. Scott shared her remarkable journey out of Mormonism as she uncovered shocking inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and contradictions in the faith she had loved and lived." .. This book isn't what it purports to be. Scott doesn't share much about her "journey" at all; it's more an expose of the inconsistencies of the Mormon doctrines. And she spends most of the time talking about Joseph Smith. If I wanted to read a biography about Joseph Smith I would have looked for one. I was hoping this would be Scott's memoir. It really wasn't, I soon realized.

This book would probably interest theology students, and it did pique my interest for awhile.. but I soon grew tired of reading paragraph after paragraph of Joseph Smith quotes, quotes from The Book of Mormon, and the life and times of Joseph Smith. I wanted to hear more about Scott's personal experience, her life in the Mormon church and what it was like for her leaving the church. Not what I'd hoped, so I quit reading this today.

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## **Lwf says**

Decided to get this Kindle book after reading another book by a former Mormon woman. This book is more about the actual differences between the book of Mormon and the Bible as well as the plagiarisms of the Bible that Joseph Smith used in the book of Mormon. The author goes into deep details about the church history, the original "witnesses", their backgrounds, character and early writings to support her work.

There are Bible verses to compare to book of Mormon verses, etc. I'm only at the third chapter yet have made plenty of notes and highlights in my Kindle. We have been speaking with Mormon missionaries, this book really has helped me to understand their thinking and is helping me to know what they believe vs. what I believe and I am hoping I will be able to speak with the missionaries in a kind, caring and loving way, with the words that God would want me to.

\*\*\*UPDATE: Now that I have finished reading this book, I have to say the reason I gave this book 5 stars is due to the complete and thorough research which the author used to write this book. The addendum is full of sources/citations which you can use to further research on your own, including books and websites.

This book went in to great details about the Mormon beliefs, explained things of which confused me before and now I have a full understanding of the difference between my true Christian faith and the false views of the Mormon one. I feel I can now speak with knowledge and understanding with a Mormon. I no longer believe we are praying to the same God.

The most INFORMATIVE book about Mormonism I've ever read and most valuable to me as a Christian.

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## **BG45 says**

This is one of the most even handed works I've read about the Mormon faith; not effusive with praise certainly, but not as bitter as most ex-Mormons tend to be. Scott almost never makes a claim that she can't back up with a reference, and as another reviewer has said previously, she fastidiously documents those references in the back of the book so you can do your own research if that's what you would prefer.



That said, she lost me at the point where she pretty much went on a tangent about more proof for Creationism than anything the Mormons say. The anti-evolution bias is what kept me from giving an otherwise amazingly well done work a 5 star rating.

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