

Official Version—Slams every Christian denomination stating they are all wrong, all their creeds are an abomination, and all their professors are corrupt.

1832—Joseph does not mention God’s displeasure with the Christian denominations merely stating, “the world lieth in sin ~~and~~ at this time none doeth good no not one...”

My QUESTIONS about the First Vision Story:

1. Why doesn’t the LDS Church use Joseph Smith’s personal account of the First Vision?

The 1832 version is the earliest and the only First Vision account recorded by Joseph Smith himself? The Joseph Smith History found in the Pearl of Great Price was compiled by a scribe named James Mulholland and published ten years later in 1842.

2. How many “Personages” visited Joseph?

Did just one person, Jesus, visit Joseph or did two persons, both the Father and Jesus, visit Joseph? Would any person who had an actual visitation from God the Father and his son Jesus Christ forget to mention God the Father when recording the event in their own personal diary?

3. How old was Joseph when the First Vision happened?

There are three different ages suggested in the different versions of the First Vision. The 1832 version says, 15. The 1838 version says, 16. And, the 1835 version, given to Erastus Holmes, says he was 14. So, was Joseph 14, 15, or 16 years of age?

4. If Joseph Smith’s First Vision Accounts were tried in a court of law today, would they be considered reliable?

On the most basic details—the source of which is said to be ONE MAN [*Joseph Smith*]~~—~~there are many significant contradictions!

Why isn’t Joseph Smith’s “First Vision” in the Pearl of Great Price?

The LDS Church claims there are 9 accounts of Joseph Smith's 'First Vision'

Each of the 9 accounts of Joseph's First Vision contain varying degrees of similarity and differences. To simplify a complex issue, we will simply compare 2 of these accounts.

1832 Account—The earliest known account of the First Vision and the only account written in Joseph Smith's own hand was produced in the second half of 1832.

1838 Account—The official First Vision account, first published in 1842 in the Times and Seasons—is published today in the Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History.

First, let's consider Joseph Smith's "First Vision", the earliest and only account written in Joseph's own handwriting.

Joseph Smith wrote, *"...from the age of twelve years to fifteen I pondered many things in my heart concerning the situation of the world... by searching the scriptures I found that ~~man~~ <mankind> did not come unto the Lord but that they had apostatized from the true and liveing faith and there was no society or denomination that built upon the gospel of Jesus as recorded in the new testament and I felt to mourn for my own sins and for the sins of the world... therefore I cried unto the Lord for mercy for there was none else to whom I could go and ~~to~~ obtain mercy and the Lord heard my cry in the wilderness and while in <the> attitude of calling upon the Lord <in the 16th year of my age> a pillar of ~~fire~~ light above the brightness of the sun at noon day came down from above and rested upon me and I was filled with the spirit of god and the <Lord> opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord and he spake unto me saying Joseph <my son> thy sins are forgiven thee. go thy <way> walk in my statutes and keep my commandments behold I am the Lord of glory I was crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have Eternal life <behold> the world lieth in sin ~~and~~ at this*

time none doeth good no not one they have turned aside from the gospel and keep not <my> commandments they draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me and my anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth..." (Selected excerpts from Joseph Smith's personal journal, 1832)

STOP – Compare the 1832 account and the 1838 account found in The Pearl of Great Price, JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY 1:7 & 11-19

When we contrast Joseph Smith's 1832 First Vision, with the Official First Vision, published in the Pearl of Great Price, we see significant differences.

Official version—Says Joseph was 15 years old.

1832 account—Joseph says he was 16 years old.

Official version—Says James 1:5 was the very reason Joseph decided he would seek the Lord in prayer.

1832—Joseph makes no mention of James 1:5.

Official version—Says Joseph's reason for praying was to find out, "which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)."

1832—Joseph says this issue had already been settled in his thinking—he learned "by searching the scriptures" that all the Christian denominations were wrong.

Official version—Claims that a terrible power of darkness overcame Joseph when he initially started to pray.

1832— Joseph does not mention this terrible power of darkness.

Official version—Says Joseph was visited by two persons, the Father and the Son.

1832—Joseph said he was visited by just one person, the Lord.

Official Version—Makes no mention of forgiveness.

1832—Joseph is overjoyed because the Lord forgave him.