

AN INTRODUCTION TO MORMONISM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one of the fastest growing religious movements in the world. It is highly visible, with a massive missionary programme, yet it remains a mystery in terms of its core beliefs and theological structure. This timely book provides an introduction to the basic history, doctrines and practices of The LDS – the ‘Mormon’ Church. Written by a non-Mormon, it seeks neither to prove nor to disprove the truthfulness of the religious claims of that faith but rather to describe them in ways that non-Mormons can understand. Particular emphasis is given to sacred texts and prophecies as well as to the crucial temple rituals of endowments, marriage and baptism for the dead, through which human beings may achieve their divine potential. This rich comparative study offers a new understanding of Mormon theology and ideas of humanity.

DOUGLAS J. DAVIES is Professor in the Study of Religion at the Department of Theology at the University of Durham. He is the author of numerous books including *The Mormon Culture of Salvation* (2000) and *Death, Ritual and Belief* (2002).

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Abbreviations

D&C	Doctrine and Covenants
<i>EM</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of Mormonism</i> , ed. Daniel H. Ludlow (New York: Macmillan, 1992)
FARMS	Foundation for Ancient Research in Mormon Studies
<i>HC</i>	<i>History of the Church</i>
<i>JD</i>	<i>Journal of Discourses</i>
<i>JHC</i>	<i>Journal History of the Church</i>
LDS	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
<i>MS</i>	<i>Millennial Star</i>
RLDS	Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
<i>TPJS</i>	<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i>