Blacks in the Scriptures

USING THE WORD OF GOD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON BLACKS & THE LDS PRIESTHOOD
Goals for our Time Together

1. Provide answers to valid questions on Blacks and the LDS Priesthood

2. Create a greater reliance upon studying the scriptures, the word of God

3. Create a greater reliance upon the Holy Ghost to obtain knowledge and truth
We’ll Accomplish This By …

1. Shattering long standing paradigms
2. Identifying potential blockages to truth
3. Utilizing the psychological, social and scientific

ALL THINGS TESTIFY OF CHRIST
How many circles do you see?
How many circles do you see?
Idiom

id·i·om [id-ee-uhm] :

A construction or expression of one language whose parts correspond to elements in another language but whose total structure or meaning is not matched in the same way in the second language.
Define Racism

Dictionary.com

1. a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others.

2. a policy, system of government, etc., based upon or fostering such a doctrine; discrimination.

3. hatred or intolerance of another race or other races.
What I was told when investigating ...

- Fence sitters in pre-existence
- Cursed
- Seed of Cain, a murderer
- Representatives of Satan here on earth
- Lowly, uncouth, lazy & detestable to others
- Would not receive the priesthood in this lifetime
- Dark skin is a mark of unworthiness
- Any who marry them should be killed
- It was time for everybody else but you
COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

We’ll pick a side and then only accept what supports our choice.

Leon Festinger 1957
Matthew 6:24

¶No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Joshua 24:15

...choose you this day whom ye will serve;
White Shirts
White Shirts
Brown People
TWO TYPES OF MELANIN IN HUMAN HAIR & SKIN

Eumelanin
Melancortin 1 (MCR1)
Melanocyte
(MSH) Melanin Stimulating Hormone

Pheomelanin
Melancortin 1 (MCR1)
Melanocyte
(ASIP) Agouti Signaling Protein

Intense heat/UV rays
Lack of intense heat/UV rays

PRODUCES
PRODUCES

Eumelanin
Pheomelanin

Photo: Clipart (Microsoft office Word 2007)

Figure 2: Agouti Signaling Protein (National Center For Biotechnology Information 2010).
SKIN TONE CHART OF WORLD POPULATION
From the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, updated last in 2007
Idiom

id·i·om [id-ee-uhhm] :

“This doesn’t mean what you think it means. It means something totally different in another culture or language.”
Widely Accepted Views

(philosophies of men)

Doctrine of the Church

(scripture or Word of God)
Matthew 22:36-40

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
And inasmuch as they erred it might be made known; And inasmuch as they sought wisdom they might be instructed; And inasmuch as they sinned they might be chastened, that they might repent; And inasmuch as they were humble they might be made strong, and blessed from on high, and receive knowledge from time to time.

D&C 1:25-28
And inasmuch as ye do not write, behold, it shall be given unto him to prophesy; and thou shalt preach my gospel and call on the holy prophets to prove his words, as they shall be given him.
Plan of Salvation

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

Lived with God as Spirits

The Father presented a plan

Bodies for those who chose the plan

Be tested & accept Christ

Priesthood power and Ordinances
Plan of Salvation

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

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2. The Father presented a plan
3. Bodies for those who chose the plan
4. Be tested & accept Christ
5. Priesthood power and Ordinances

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Plan of Salvation Diagram
Plan of Salvation

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A separation from God, His path, His ways
noun, verb, cursed or curst, curs-\textit{ing}.

8. \textit{Slang}. the menstrual period; menstruation (usually prec. by the).

9. an ecclesiastical censure or anathema.

10. to wish or invoke evil, calamity, injury, or destruction upon.

11. to swear at.

12. to blaspheme.

13. to afflict with great evil.

14. to excommunicate.

15. to utter curses; swear profanely.
In Reference to Cain

36 And now thou shalt be **cursed** from the earth which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand. 38 And Cain said … my **punishment** is greater than I can bear. 39 Behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the Lord, and from thy face shall I be hid;

Moses 5:36, 38-39
In Reference to Adam

Wherefore, I, the Lord God, caused that he should be cast out from the Garden of Eden, from my presence, because of his transgression, wherein he became spiritually dead, which is the first death, even that same death which is the last death, which is spiritual, which shall be pronounced upon the wicked when I shall say: Depart, ye cursed.

D&C 29:41
BLACK & WHITE

Spiritual darkness, gloominess, dejected
And
Righteousness, purity
Jeremiah 8:21 - For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am a **black**; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

   21a: Heb. idiom meaning ‘gloomy.’

Jeremiah 14:2 - Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are a **black** unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

   2a: OR Dejected
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMP</td>
<td>Amplified Bible (1965)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESV</td>
<td>English Standard Version (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSV</td>
<td>Revised Standard Version (1952)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJV</td>
<td>King James Version (1611; significantly revised 1769)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKJV</td>
<td>New King James Version (1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJB</td>
<td>New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic, 1986; revision of 1966 Jerusalem Bible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCV</td>
<td>New Century Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NirV</td>
<td>New International reader’s Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNT</td>
<td>Good News Translation (also Good News Bible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEV</td>
<td>Contemporary English Version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message</td>
<td>The Message by Eugene Peterson (1991-2000s)</td>
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2a: OR Dejected
Joel 2:6 - Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather a**blackness**.

6a: Heb. idiom meaning ‘gloom.'
Nahum 2:10  - She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather a blackness.

10a: Heb. idiom meaning ‘gloom.’
Job 30:30 - My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.

Lamentations 5:10 - Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.
2 NEPHI 5:21

And he had caused the cursed to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them.

Follow new footnote “d” to 2 Nephi 30:6 to get an idea of what is meant by “skin”.

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Footnote:

- **a** cursed
- **b** delightsome
- **c** enticing
- **d** skin
- **e** blackness
And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a pure and a delightsome people.

2 Nephi 30:6

Follow new footnote “b” to the bottom of the page

b scales - TG Darkness, Spiritual, TG Spiritual Blindness
But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord a\textit{seeth} not as b\textit{man} seeth; for man looketh on the outward c\textit{appearance}, but the d\textit{Lord} looketh on the e\textit{heart}. 
O my brethren, I fear that unless ye shall repent of your sins that their skins will be a**whiter** than yours, when ye shall be brought with them before the throne of God.

**Jacob 3:8**

*Follow new footnote “a” for “whiter”*

8 a 3 Ne. 2:15
And their a curse was taken from them, and their skin became b white like unto the Nephites;

3 Nephi 2:15

Follow new footnote for “white” b

2 Ne. 5:21; 30:6; Jacob 3:8
4 And the aAmlicites were distinguished from the Nephites, for they had bmarked themselves with red in their foreheads after the manner of the Lamanites; nevertheless they had not shorn their heads like unto the Lamanites.
8 And when it was evening Laman went to the guards who were over the Nephites, and behold, they saw him coming and they hailed him; but he saith unto them: Fear not; behold, I am a Lamanite. Behold, we have escaped from the Nephites, and they sleep; and behold we have taken of their wine and brought with us.

9 Now when the Lamanites heard these words they received him with joy;
For none of these iniquities come of the Lord; for he doeth that which is good among the children of men; and he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

2 Nephi 26:33
Also Compare Alma 1:30 & 11:44

Now, this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous;

Alma 11:44

...and they did not set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need.

Alma 1:30
All Of This Confirmed By October, 2010 Changes To Scriptures on LDS.org
MORMON 5 - Chapter heading removes "The Lamanites shall be a dark, filthy and loathsome people" and replaces it with "Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites will be scattered, and the Spirit will cease to strive with them".

MOSES 7:8,22- The words "blackness" and "black" both get new footnotes which lead to 2 Nephi 26:33.
1 Nephi 12:23 - The footnotes for “dark” have been removed (Jacob 3:3 and Alma 3:7, [6-19]) and replaced with 2 Nephi 26:33

2 Nephi 5 - The words in the chapter heading “the Lamanites are cursed, receive a skin of blackness” were changed to “the Lamanites are cut off from the presence of the Lord, are cursed,”
AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE 1800’S & 1900’S

Black Pete 1832
Joseph T. Ball 1833 by Brigham Young
Elijah Abel, by Joseph Smith in 1836
Isaac Van Meter 1837
Walker Lewis in 1844
William McCary 1846
Enoch Able 1900
Elijah Abel (Grandson of the first Elijah Abel) 1934, 1935
All Of This Confirmed By March 1, 2013
Changes To Declaration 2
… During Joseph Smith’s lifetime, a few black male members of the Church were ordained to the priesthood. Early in its history, Church leaders stopped conferring the priesthood on black males of African descent. Church records offer no clear insights into the origins of this practice.
What qualifies one for priesthood?

And a faith, b hope, c charity and d love, with an e eye single to the f glory of God,
g qualify him for the work.

D&C 4:5

Follow the new footnote for “5g” to the bottom of the page to find the following:

TG Priesthood, Qualifying for
More direct revelation on who to give Priesthood

And now this **calling** and **commandment** give I unto you concerning **all men**—

That as many as shall come before my servants Sidney Rigdon and Joseph Smith, Jun., embracing this calling and commandment, shall be **ordained** and sent forth to **preach** the everlasting gospel among the nations—

D&C 36:4-5

5a D&C 4: 3 (3-6); D&C 63: 57; TG Priesthood, Ordination.
More direct revelation on who to give Priesthood

And this commandment shall be given unto the elders of my church, that every man which will a\texttt{embrace} it with b\texttt{singleness} of heart may be ordained and sent forth, even as I have spoken.

D&C 36:7

7a TG Commitment; Priesthood, Magnifying Callings within; Priesthood, Qualifying for.
And again, verily I say unto you, those who desire in their hearts, in meekness, to warn sinners to repentance, let them be ordained unto this power.

D&C 63:57

Follow the new footnote “57a” for “those” which says:

D&C 4:3 Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

D&C 36:5 That as many as shall come before my servants Sidney Rigdon and Joseph Smith, Jun., embracing this calling and commandment, shall be ordained and sent forth to preach the everlasting gospel among the nations
21 They shall not have right to the _priesthood_, nor their posterity after them from generation to generation.

22 It had been _better_ for them that a millstone had been hanged about their necks, and they drowned in the depth of the sea.

23 Wo unto all those that _discomfort_ my people, and drive, and _murder_, and testify against them, saith the Lord of Hosts; a _generation_ of vipers shall not escape the damnation of hell.
However, the Lords, speaking of the same people:

And I will answer a judgment, wrath, and indignation, wailing, and anguish, and gnashing of teeth upon their heads, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord your God.

D&C 124:52
IN CONCLUSION

1. Race and black and white terms - 1775
2. Black and white skin in the scriptures refer to spirits of man, not literal skin
3. How skin color changes – A sign of God’s love
4. Idioms and their use in scriptures
5. A curse is a separation from God, His paths or ways
6. Several direct revelations to give all men the priesthood
Blacks in the Scriptures

Q&A