

great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God” (Jacob 4:8; emphasis added). Isaiah proclaimed the same truth when he said, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

I frequently hear people, who are fearful of stretching themselves beyond shallow faith, objecting to gospel discussions of any depth by protesting, “that topic does not pertain to our salvation!” What a sad position to take! What an abrupt stop to honest inquiry and searching! How untrue! Gospel study involves more than tithing and the Word of Wisdom, as important as these are. We must grow in our quest for knowledge. We are promised that if we ask, we shall receive—but if we do not ask, we will not receive.

At a General Conference of the Church which was held on April 7, 1852, President Brigham Young stated that “Every Elder should become a profound theologian.⁴ In keeping with this same thought the Prophet Joseph Smith advised all the Saints to “go on to perfection, and search deeper and deeper in the mysteries of Godliness.”⁵

Joseph Smith also exhorted us to search deeply when he said: “The things of God are of deep import; and time, and experience, and careful and ponderous and solemn thoughts can only find them out. Thy mind, O man! if thou wilt lead a soul unto salvation, must stretch as high as the utmost heavens, and search into and contemplate the darkest abyss, and the broad expanse of eternity—thou must commune with God.”⁶

Only by stretching our minds instead of limiting ourselves to the view of things as they seem to be in the world around us can we receive revelation and know the mysteries of Godliness, including the great mystery of our own origins as children of God. Now we will discuss one of the great mysteries that our Father has revealed through his prophets—regarding the true origin of Adam and Eve and us.

THE FATHER ELOHIM, NOT JEHOVAH, BROUGHT FORTH ADAM

You may remember that in the previous chapter you read that Jesus and “the noble and great ones” were actively involved in the creation of the earth and the preparing of the world for the placement of life (see Abraham 3:22-24; 4:1) and

that he and the noble and great spirits performed the creative acts associated with the preparation of the earth for life.

However, when it came time for Adam and Eve to be placed on the earth, our Father in Heaven became personally involved.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained our Heavenly Father's involvement in the placement of Adam and Eve when he said that,

From...sacred sources we know that Jehovah—Christ, assisted by “many of the noble and great ones” (Abr. 3:22), of whom Michael is but the illustration, did in fact create the earth and all forms of plant and animal life on the face thereof. But when it came to placing man on earth, there was a change in Creators. That is, the Father himself became personally involved. All things were created by the Son, using the power delegated by the Father, except man. *In the spirit and again in the flesh, man was created by the Father.* There was no delegation of authority where the crowning creature of creation was concerned.⁷

From this quotation we learn that Adam is a son of God both spiritually and then physically (see end of chapter Figure 3-B, The Revealed View of Man's Origin & Destiny). This fact is affirmed by Luke in the New Testament. In tracing the genealogy of Joseph, the step-father of Jesus, Luke concluded his list of patriarchs by stating, “Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the *son of God*” (Luke 3:38; emphasis added). Regarding this passage, Elder McConkie explained, “This statement, found also in Moses 6:22, has a deep and profound significance and also *means what it says*. Father Adam came, as indicated, to this sphere, gaining an immortal body, because death had not yet entered the world. (2 Nephi. 2:22). Jesus, on the other hand, was the Only Begotten in the flesh, meaning into a world of mortality where death already reigned.”⁸

The Prophet Joseph Smith also endorsed Luke's statement when he stated emphatically, “Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And *everything comes in this way.*”⁹ In other words, Joseph Smith is saying that all living things are begotten or procreated by mothers and fathers—including Adam and Eve.

This newly revealed truth about Adam's beginning enlightens our minds and lifts our spirits, for in learning of our origins through Adam we can anticipate our outcomes in the eternities. In other words, by understanding our true premortal *and* earthly beginnings as literal children of God we can predict our own destiny. Because Heavenly Father begat us spiritually and physically (through Adam and Eve), we have the seeds within us to eventually become like him (see D&C 132:19)—if we follow the steps outlined in the great plan of happiness.

In this, the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, we have been blessed with

such an abundance of light and truth regarding our family connectedness with God. And yet, there is much knowledge that lies in futurity that will provide further light and truth about our origins. In the meantime, while waiting with eager expectation to know more about the mysteries of godliness, we rejoice in the abundance of what has been revealed.

CELESTIAL BEINGS HAVE POWER TO CREATE BOTH SPIRIT AND BODY

The power of our heavenly parents to procreate both spirit and body is a characteristic power of all exalted beings. President Heber C. Kimball clearly taught that Celestial Parents can procreate both *spirit* bodies (as we were in the premortal life) and *physical* bodies (as Adam's and Eve's were in Eden). He explained:

Now,...you have got a spirit in you, and that spirit was created and organized—was *born* and *begotten* by our Father and our God before we ever took these bodies; and these bodies were formed by him, and through him, and of him, just as much as the spirit was; for I will tell you, he commenced and brought forth spirits; and then, when he completed that work he commenced and brought forth tabernacles for those spirits to dwell in. I came through him, both *spirit* and *body*.¹⁰

President Brigham Young also taught that all those who obtain exaltation in the celestial kingdom will have power to procreate—like the Gods have done before them—both spirit children and physical children. He taught:

We have not the power in the flesh to create and bring forth or produce a spirit; but we have the power to produce a temporal body. The germ of this, God has placed within us. And when our spirits receive our bodies, and through our faithfulness we are worthy to be crowned, *we will then receive authority to produce both spirit and body*. But these keys we cannot receive in the flesh. Herein, brethren, you can perceive that we have not finished, and cannot finish our work, while we live here, no more than Jesus did while he was in the flesh.¹¹

The *crowning* about which President Young spoke in the above quotation has reference to true and faithful Saints—those who will inherit the highest degree of the celestial kingdom—being empowered to procreate life forever throughout the eternities. Thus, they will *rule* and *reign* under their Heavenly Father over an ever increasing posterity whom they will bathe in their eternal love even as our Father loves us now.