

The Godhead

upon him, and there came a voice out of heaven saying: This is my beloved Son.

16. And I, John, bear record that he received a fulness of the glory of the Father.

17. And he received all power, both in heaven and on earth, and the glory of the Father was with him, for he dwelt in him.

The Godhead

Discourse of President Rulon T. Jeffs

June 2, 1991

(President Jeffs' words are in bold print.)

We must learn who God is, and how to become like Him.

Who God Is

A good many questions have been raised from a reading of a sermon of the Prophet Leroy Johnson, July 25, 1976, in which the matter of the Godhead is treated. It is a very good introduction to the subject that we have at hand. The following are the quotations to be considered:

LSJ Vol.4 Page 1252 July 25, 1976 CCA

In our preparation there are many points of doctrine that are lightly spoken of that need to be brought to the attention of our people in their true light and manner, that we might be properly instructed. I have been taught all my life, and I have heard my Father and other men talk when I was by his side waiting for him to call upon me to help, I have heard many things transpire. I suppose that is where I got my determination to stay put when I found the Priesthood that bore the keys of salvation. But I have been taught all my life that long before the foundation of this earth was prepared, the personnel for the governing of this earth were called. They were

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called and set apart to come forth in their day and time to take their place in the governing of this earth. We have been taught that there are three personages in the Godhead--God the Father, God the Son, and God the Testator or the Holy Ghost. Now, these three governing powers were called and set apart to come forth in their day and time to govern the destiny of the peopling of this earth.

One reason I speak upon this subject, the question was asked me this morning: When Adam met with His posterity at the close of His time upon this earth, He called His posterity together and blessed them, and He said that He had been instructed by His Father to do this work. Who was the man that He had reference to? Who was the man He had reference to in the Garden of Eden when He was asked by Lucifer, "Why do you offer sacrifice?" He said, "I know not, except I have been commanded by my Father." Do you think it was some foreign spirit other than the ones that had been called to govern the earth? I don't think so.

We are told by the brother of Jared that he went before the Lord when he needed light for the barges while they were upon the great deep. He had prepared these eight barges to haul his people to a choice land, a land that was choice above all other lands, said the Lord to him. If he was the Lord, then was it Adam speaking to him, or was it someone else? When he asked for the Lord to touch the stones that they might bring forth light, he saw the finger of the Lord. What did He tell him? The brother of Jared fell to the earth, and then the voice spoke and said, "Why do you fall?" He said, "I was afraid for I knew not that you had flesh and bones." He said, "Did you see more than My finger?" The brother of Jared said, "No. But I would like you to show yourself to me." The Lord said, "Would you believe if I showed myself to you? Would you believe?" "Yea, Lord, I will believe." So, then He unveiled Himself and showed Himself to the brother of Jared. He said, "This is the body that I will have when I appear in the flesh," meaning that He was Jesus Christ, (The Father and the Son).

The actual reading is:

Ether 3:16-17

16. Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.

17. And now, as I, Moroni, said I could not make a full account

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of these things which are written therefore it sufficeth me to say that Jesus showed himself unto this man in the spirit, even after the manner and in the likeness of the same body even as he showed himself unto the Nephites.

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...the same man (His Father, Jehovah), that appeared to Adam in the Garden of Eden and in the Valley of Adam-Ondi-Ahman when He told our Father Adam to bless His posterity and all the generations of time from then on.

These are some of the truths that we should ponder upon, and not think that someone else had the governing powers of this earth until a certain time, and then another took it. These men had to come in their time and place and take their bodies. They were called, according to Brigham Young, millions of years before the foundation of this earth was formed. They were ordained and set apart for the governing of this earth and the peopling of it, to bless the people that they might be built up in their faith and determination to serve God and keep His commandments.

Go into this book, the Three-in-One; go into the Doctrine & Covenants, read the headings and the first few verses of each revelation and see how important it is that we keep all the commandments of God. He does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance, He said. And this He means. He says, "Haven't I spoken plainly? So plain that a child could understand?" It is there, and it is in plain language, and every person who has any understanding at all can understand what the Lord has said and what He expects of us. We approach Him as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We don't pray unto Adam. We pray--Our Father who art in Heaven, and in the name of Jesus Christ. Can you understand it?

We will go back to the Godhead before this earth was formed, which we must distinguish from the Godhead here as to the flesh, after the creation.

Millennial Star Vol. 15:769,770 J.D. 1:50,51

It is true that the earth was organized by three distinct characters, namely Eloheim, Yahovah (Jehovah, sometimes said in English), and Michael, these three forming a quorum, as in all heavenly bodies, and in organizing element, perfectly represented in the Deity, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

In that Godhead, Michael, an exalted God, was in the office of

the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is also this all-pervading substance, self-existent, had no beginning, has no end, the powers of the eternal Godhead. Again, reading from the Book of Ether, Jesus Christ said; now understand, this is before He came in the flesh; He was the God of Adam, Jehovah, the same character.

Ether 3:14-18

14. *Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. (That is the great mystery, but is simplified when we understand.) In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.*

15. *And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.*

16. *Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.*

I will appear in the flesh. Now Moroni speaks, having recorded these things:

17. *And now, as I, Moroni, said I could not make a full account of these things which are written therefore it sufficeth me to say that Jesus showed himself unto this man in the spirit, even after the manner and in the likeness of the same body even as he showed himself unto the Nephites.*

In the meridian of time, after He was crucified and resurrected, He came and visited the Nephites.

18. *And he ministered unto him even as he ministered unto the Nephites; and all this, that this man might know that he was God, because of the many great works which the Lord had showed unto him.*

In Brigham Young's sermon, we will see how this same character comes on down. Jesus, our Elder Brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven. This Jehovah, now, the one who is Jesus Christ in the Trinity before, now comes down and be-

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comes Jesus Christ in the flesh. This same Character was born again into this world through Mary. And she had to be a wife of Adam in another world, born into this flesh, to bring forth the Son of God.

Therefore, I must ask the question: Who did Joseph Smith see when the Godhead, when the Father and the Son appeared to him -- the Godhead as to the earth in the flesh? Michael was the Father. Jesus Christ was the Son, as to the flesh. Here Joseph Smith, Jun., their Witness and Testator, becomes the third member of the Godhead.

Heber C. Kimball made the following statement.

J.D. 5:179

Let me tell you, the Holy Ghost is a man; He is one of the sons of our Father and our God; and He is that man that stood next to Jesus Christ, -- as to the flesh, this earth, He is the head.

Now Joseph steps into that office of the Holy Ghost. He has charge of this last dispensation into which all the other dispensations will be gathered as one. That is the only recording we have where the Father and the Son appeared together to a man. This was to Joseph, who is now one of the Godhead with those two, as to this earth. There has always been a mystery. Having discussed the personages involved here, how is this Character able to say, "I am the Father and the Son"? He was the Father of Michael and He is the Son of Michael, or Adam. Who resurrected Jesus when He rose from the tomb? It was Adam, who begot him in the flesh.

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When Christ came forth from the tomb, who do you think came and raised Him up? He had to have somebody come and take Him by the hand and bring Him forth from the grave. Who do you think it was? It was the same Character that sired Him in the first place, nobody but our Father Adam. He was right there and brought Him forth from the grave and blessed Him, the same Father of the world.

Can you understand? He is also the Son of Man; Jesus Christ is called the Son of Man, isn't He? Adam is Man. He is the Son of Adam, or Michael.

Mosiah 15:1-7

1. *And now Abinadi said unto them: I would that ye should*

understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people.

As He had appeared to the brother of Jared, He said that.

2. *And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son--*

3. *The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God;*

The Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary, and Adam begat Jesus in the flesh. The world out there says that Jesus was begotten by the Holy Ghost. Then Brigham Young disposes of that very effectively in that sermon.

3. *The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son--*

4. *And they are one God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth.*

They are united.

5. *And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, being one God, suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people.****

7. *Yea, even so he shall be led, crucified, and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, the will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father.*

We have a mystery here. I asked President Johnson, "How did this glorified God, Jehovah, the Creator with Michael, of the earth, a body of tangible flesh and bones, glorified of course--how was that Character born again as a little child into the flesh? How can that be?"

The answer was, "It cannot be revealed, only in a sacred place in the temple."

Now I will read you another item on page 312 of the Teachings, which leaves us still with that mystery.

TPJS Page 312

As the Father hath power in Himself, so hath the Son power in Himself, to lay down His life and take it again, so He has a body of His own. The Son doeth what He hath seen the Father do: then the

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*Father hath some day laid down His life and taken it again; so he has a body of His own; each one will be in His own body;****

Gods have an ascendancy over the angels, who are ministering servants. In the resurrection, some are raised to be angels, others are raised to become Gods.

And here is the answer:

These things are revealed in the most holy places in a Temple prepared for that purpose.

Still that mystery. And that is as much as we are permitted to know till we are capable of being administered to by the Second Comforter, even Jesus Christ. (See TPJS p.149-151, the Two Comforters)

The following quotation will explain something regarding Joseph Smith and the Holy Ghost.

TPJS Page 350

Now, I ask all who hear me, why the learned men who are preaching salvation, say that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing? The reason is, that they are unlearned in the things of God, and have not the gift of the Holy Ghost; they account it blasphemy in any one to contradict their idea. If you tell them that God made the world out of something, they will call you a fool. But I am learned, and know more than all the world put together. The Holy Ghost does, anyhow, and He is within me, and comprehends more than all the world: and I will associate myself with Him.

I'm going to read you Section 38, the forepart of it. This whole Section 38 is a beautiful sermon, applicable to us, very definitely now as it was then. That was in January of 1831.

D&C 38:1-5

1. *Thus saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, the Great I AM, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the same which looked upon the wide expanse of eternity, and all the seraphic hosts of heaven, before the world was made;*

2. *The same which knoweth all things, for all things are present before mine eyes;*

3. *I am the same which spake, and the world was made, and all things came by me.*

4. *I am the same which have taken the Zion of Enoch into mine own bosom; and verily, I say, even as many as have believed in my*

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name, for I am Christ, and in mine own name, by the virtue of the blood which I have spilt, have I pleaded before the Father for them.

5. But behold, the residue of the wicked have I kept in chains of darkness until the judgment of the great day, which shall come at the end of the earth;

To show you that it doesn't conflict when we understand, with Adam being our Father and God; Father Michael is the Father of our spirits, and He is the Father of our bodies. Jehovah created the earth with Father Michael's assistance. He helped to create it, as Brigham Young explains. Being our Father in the flesh as well as the spirit, is He not God?

So this great mystery of the relationship of the Father and the Son has much to be revealed concerning it. But in the matter of the creation to taking place as they were ordained to do, Jehovah is the Father of Adam, He comes down, is born into the flesh, and He is the Son of Adam. "I am the Father and the Son." Very simple, isn't it? We know that much, but there is still more, according to what was read from page 312 of the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

As to the relationship and position between Jesus Christ and Michael, we have the following quotation:

TPJS Page 157

The Priesthood was first given to Adam; he obtained the First Presidency, and held the keys of it from generation to generation. He obtained it in the Creation, before the world was formed, as in Genesis 1:26, 27, 28. He had dominion given him over every living creature. He is Michael the Archangel, spoken of in the Scriptures. Then to Noah, who is Gabriel: he stands next in authority to Adam in the Priesthood; he was called of God to this office, and was the father of all living in his day, and to him was given the dominion. These men held keys first on earth, and then in heaven.

The Priesthood is an everlasting principle, and existed with God from eternity, and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years. The keys have to be brought from heaven whenever the Gospel is sent. When they are revealed from heaven, it is by Adam's authority.

Daniel in his seventh chapter speaks of the Ancient of Days; he means the oldest man, our Father Adam, Michael, he will call his

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children together and hold a council with them to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. He (Adam) is the father of the human family, and presides over the spirits of all men, and all that have had the keys must stand before him in this grand council. This may take place before some of us leave this stage of action. The Son of Man stands before him (**Michael**), and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up his stewardship to Christ, that which was delivered to him as holding the keys of the universe, but retains his standing as head of the human family.

The spirit of man is not a created being; it existed from eternity, and will exist to eternity. Anything created cannot be eternal; and earth, water, etc., had their existence in an elementary state, from eternity. Our Savior speaks of children and says, Their angels always stand before my Father. The Father called all spirits before Him at the creation of man, and organized them. He (Adam) is the head, and was told to multiply. The keys were first given to him, and by him to others. He will have to give an account of his stewardship, and they to him.

The Priesthood is everlasting. The Savior, Moses, and Elias, gave the keys to Peter, James and John, on the mount, when they were transfigured before him. The Priesthood is everlasting--without beginning of days or end of years; without father, mother, etc. If there is no change of ordinances there is no change of Priesthood. Wherever the ordinances of the Gospel are administered, there is the Priesthood.

How have we come at the Priesthood in the last days? It came down, down, in regular succession. Peter, James, and John had it given to them and they gave it to others. CHRIST IS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST; ADAM NEXT. Paul speaks of the Church coming to an innumerable company of angels to God the Judge of all the spirits of just men made perfect; to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant. (Hebrews 12:22-24.)

I saw Adam in the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman. He called together his children and blessed them with a patriarchal blessing. The Lord appeared in their midst, and he (Adam) blessed them all, and foretold what should befall them to the latest generation.

This is why Adam blessed his posterity; he wanted to bring them into the presence of God. They looked for a city, etc., "whose builder and maker is God." (Hebrews 11:10.) Moses sought to bring the children of Israel into the presence of God, through the power of

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the Priesthood, but he could not. In the first ages of the world they tried to establish the same thing; and there were Eliases raised up who tried to restore these very glories, but did not obtain them; but they prophesied of a day when this glory would be revealed. Paul spoke of the dispensation of the fullness of times, when God would gather together all things in one, etc.; and those men to whom these keys have been given, will have to be there; and they without us cannot be made perfect.

These men are in heaven, but their children are on the earth. Their bowels yearn over us. God sends down men for this reason. "And the Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that give offense and them that do iniquity." (Matthew 13:41.) All these authoritative characters will come down and join hand in hand in bringing about this work.

How To Become Like God

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