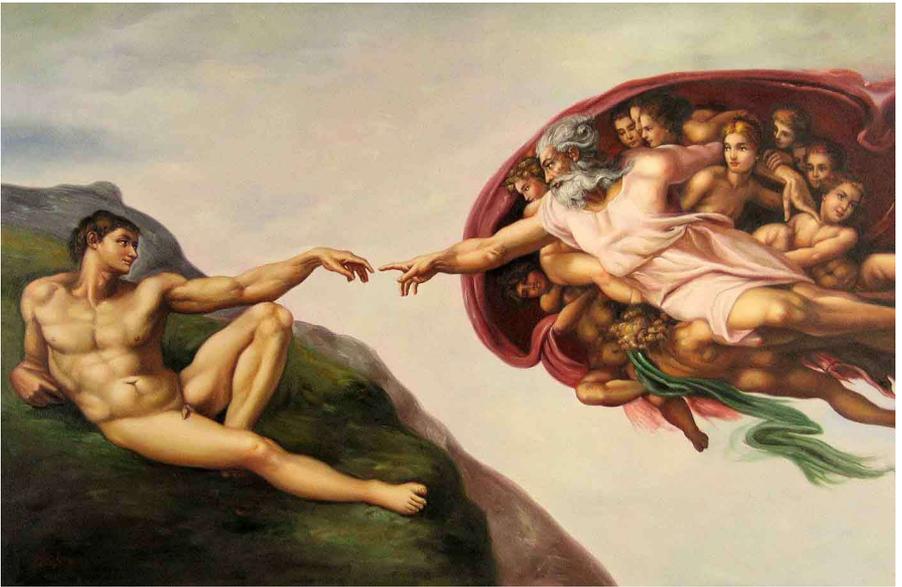


God is our Father



An Introduction to the Fatherhood of God Doctrine

Also called the Adam-God Doctrine.

I am a Child of God

I am a Child of God
And He has sent me here
Has given me an earthly home
With parents kind and dear

Lead me, guide me, walk beside
me,
Help me find the way
Teach me all that I must do
To live with Him someday!

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Introduction

Since the beginning of time, questions about the nature of God have been a source of great controversy. Members of the Church in Joseph Smith's and Brigham Young's day had a difficult time accepting these doctrines - The Fatherhood of God, or Adam-God doctrine, was a source of controversy even in the Nauvoo Expositor. - Accordingly, all the early leaders of the church addressed the concerns that members of the Church had in an effort to help them accept these teachings as a doctrine of the Church.

In order to clearly discuss the revealed truths about the fatherhood of God it will be useful to quote extensively from Prophets. These are men who know God from their personal experience. All Latter-Day Saints who have sustained these presidents of the Church as "Prophets Seers and Revelators" have covenanted to accept these words, and to seek the spirit necessary to understand the truths these prophets have taught the world. We will begin with statements by Joseph Smith, and then on through other presidents of the church, in order to explore exactly what has been authoritatively taught in this dispensation.

Joseph Smith established the doctrine that Adam is our Father, the father of Jesus Christ, and God, and explains to us why it is vital for the latter-day saints to understand it. If we read these teachings carefully the spirit can help us understand the nature of God, and our relationship to him. Such an understanding is necessary for us to have the faith necessary to be saved. In the Lectures on Faith it states:

“Let us here observe, that three things are necessary, in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation: First, The idea that he actually exists, Secondly, A correct idea of his character, perfections and attributes, Thirdly, An actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing, is according to his will.” (LonF 3:2-5)

Joseph Smith:

"In the first place, I wish to go back to the beginning—to the morn of creation. There is the starting point for us to look to, in order to understand and be fully acquainted with the mind, purposes and decrees of the Great Eloheim, who sit in yonder heavens as they did at the creation of the world. It is necessary for us to have an understanding of God himself in the beginning. If we start right, it is easy to go right all the time; but if we start wrong we may go wrong, and it will be a hard matter to get right.

"There are but a very few beings in the world who understand rightly the character of God. . . .

"If men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend themselves. I want to go back to the beginning, and so lift your minds into more lofty spheres and a more exalted understanding than what the human mind generally aspires to.

"I want to ask this congregation, every man, woman and child, to answer the question in their own hearts, what kind of a being God is? Ask yourselves; turn your thoughts into your hearts, and say if any of you have seen, heard, or communed with Him? This is a question that may occupy your attention for a long time. I again repeat the question—What kind of a being is God? Does any man or woman know? Have any of you seen Him, heard Him, or communed with Him? Here is the question that will, peradventure, from this time henceforth occupy your attention. The scriptures inform us that "This is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3)

"If any man does not know God, and inquires what kind of a being He is,—if he will search diligently his own heart—if the declaration of Jesus and the apostles be true, he will realize that he has not eternal life; for there can be eternal life on no other principle.

“My first object is to find out the character of the only wise and true, God, and what kind of a being He is; and if I am so fortunate as to be the man to comprehend God, and explain or convey the principles to your hearts, so that the Spirit seals them upon you, then let every man and woman henceforth sit in silence, put their hands on their mouths, and never lift their hands or voices, or say anything against the man of God or the servants of God again. . . .

“I will go back to the beginning before the world was, to show what kind of a being God is. What sort of a being was God in the beginning? Open your ears and hear, all ye ends of the earth, for I am going to prove it to you by the Bible, and to tell you the designs of God in relation to the human race, and why He interferes with the affairs of man.

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by His power, was to make himself visible,—I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man; for Adam was created in the very fashion, image and likeness of God, and received instruction from, and walked, talked and conversed with Him, as one man talks and communes with another.”

(King Follet Discourse, *History of the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 302-317)

Consider the following scriptures revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith, that show Adam to be our Lord, our judge, our Father, and our God. These scriptures ascribe such titles of God to Adam as “Ancient of Days”. This is significant because of Joseph’s prophecy regarding Adam returning to earth and conferring upon Jesus certain blessings and authority to bring in His Millennial reign on the earth as Messiah. Joseph Smith stated:

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

children together and hold a council with them to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man [Jesus]. 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, Jesus Christ, stands before Him, Adam, and there is given him glory and dominion. Adam delivers up this 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. (History of the Church. 3:386-7)

This is referenced in D&C 116: Spring Hill is named by the Lord Adam-ondi-Ahman, because, said He, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the prophet. (D&C 116:1)

Joseph Smith and all the early latter day saints fully understood that the title “Ancient of Days” was synonymous with God the Father. Joseph Smith regularly referred to a biblical commentary he owned written by Adam Clarke which states explicitly “The Ancient of days is God Almighty; and this [Daniel 7] is the only place in the sacred writings where God the Father is represented in a human form.” This idea is also explicitly stated in the Doctrine and Covenants:

“Michael, or Adam, the Father of all, the Lord of all, the Ancient of Days!” (D&C 27:11)

“Abel, who was slain by the conspiracy of his brother, received the priesthood by the commandments of God, by the hand of his Father Adam, who was the first man. Which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all



generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years.
(D&C 84:16-17)

(The Ancient of Days (1794) Watercolor by William Blake)
“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. “
-Joseph Smith (TPJS, p. 157)

“The Chairman [Joseph Smith] explained the meaning of the word “Ahman” which signifies the first man or first God, and “Ahman Christ” signifies the first man's son.”
-Joseph Smith 4/5/1844 (Council of Fifty Minutes, 81)

On May 7th 1834 Joseph Smith had the following vision with Zebedee Coltrin who recorded the events thus: “Once after returning from a mission, I met Bro. Joseph in Kirtland, who asked me if I did not wish to go with him to a conference at New Portage. The party consisted of Presidents. Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery and myself. Next morning at New Portage, I noticed that Joseph seemed to have a far off look in his eyes, or was looking at a distance, and presently Joseph stepped between Brother Cowdery, and myself and taking us by the arm, said, "lets take a walk." We went to a place where there was some beautiful grass, and grapevines and swampbeech interlaced. President Joseph Smith then said, "Let us pray." We all three prayed in turn - Joseph, Oliver and myself. Bro. Joseph then said, "now brethren we will see some visions." Joseph lay down on the ground on his back and stretched out his arms and we laid our heads on them. As we looked up the heavens gradually opened, and we saw the golden throne of God, on a circular foundation, something like a light house, and on the throne were two personages, having white hair, and clothed in white garments. They were the two most beautiful and perfect specimens of mankind we ever saw. Joseph said, “They are our first parents, Adam and Eve.” (quoted in Salt Lake School of the Prophets, Minutes, p.69-70). Other accounts of

this event state explicitly that the personages seen by the prophet and his associates were God the Father and Heavenly Mother.

(See also JD 2:342-43; WJS, 64-65, Unpublished Revelations 81, JD 19:320a, and D&C 78:20; 95:17)

Brigham Young

One thing has remained a mystery in this kingdom up to this day. It is in regard to the character of the well-beloved Son of God, upon which subject the Elders of Israel have conflicting views. Our God and Father in heaven, is a being of tabernacle, or, in other words, He has a body, with parts the same as you and I have; and is capable of showing forth His works to organized beings, as, for instance, in the world in which we live, it is the result of the knowledge and infinite wisdom that dwell in His organized body. His son Jesus Christ has become a personage of tabernacle, and has a body like his father. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of the Lord, and issues forth from Himself, and may properly be called God's minister to execute His will in immensity; being called to govern by His influence and power; but He is not a person of tabernacle as we are, and as our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ are. The question has been, and is often, asked, who it was that begat the Son of the Virgin Mary. The infidel world have concluded that if what the Apostles wrote about his father and mother be true, and the present marriage discipline acknowledged by Christendom be correct, then Christians must believe that God is the father of an illegitimate son, in the person of Jesus Christ! The infidel fraternity teach that to their disciples. I will tell you how it is. Our Father in Heaven begat all the spirits that ever were, or ever will be, upon this earth; and they were born spirits in the eternal world. Then the Lord by His power and wisdom organized the mortal tabernacle of man. We were made first spiritual, and afterwards temporal.

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one

of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days! about whom holy men have written and spoken—He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later. They came here, organized the raw material, and arranged in their order the herbs of the field, the trees, the apple, the peach, the plum, the pear, and every other fruit that is desirable and good for man; the seed was brought from another sphere, and planted in this earth. The thistle, the thorn, the brier, and the obnoxious weed did not appear until after the earth was cursed. When Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, their bodies became mortal from its effects, and therefore their offspring were mortal. When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family [i.e. Adam]; and when He took a tabernacle, it was begotten by his Father in heaven. . . . 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.

Now, let all who may hear these doctrines, pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damnation. (*9 April 1852, JD 1:50-1*)

“I could not find any man on earth who could tell me this, although it is one of the simplest things in the world, until I met and talked with Joseph Smith.” (Brigham Young, 18 June 1873, *Deseret Weekly News* 22:308.)

"Our Father begot all the spirits that were before any tabernacle was made. When our Father came into the Garden He came with his Celestial body & brought one of his wives with him and ate of the fruit of the Garden until He could beget a Tabernacle. And Adam is Michael, God, and all the God that we have anything to do with. They ate of this fruit & formed the first Tabernacle that was formed."
(Brigham Young, *Friday 4/9/1852*, As Recorded in Wilford Woodruff's Journal)

"There never was a time or eternity but what a God did exist and a God that had children upon the same principle that children are now begotten, and I was begotten by the God I worship who reigns in the heavens and I shall also in my turn reign as a God & so will you. ...

We commonly call our future estate heaven, so you are their Heavenly Father, and Mother, their Heavenly Mother, and all this by obedience to law, notwithstanding you have become a Heavenly Father, you still have a Heavenly Father, whom you love more and more each day as you grow in knowledge and advance in experience, and even your Heavenly Father had a Heavenly Father, and so we might continue, or, as is expressed in a hymn:

If You Could Hie To Kolob
[Hymns #284]

If you could hie to Kolob in the twinkling of an eye,
And then continue onward, with that same speed to fly,
Do you think you could ever, through all eternity
Find out the generation, where Gods began to be?

Now an age to eternity has rolled by, and we see you surrounded by an innumerable host of spiritual children, and these are your children, the children or kingdom over which you will preside forever.

You have read the parable Jesus spoke, how the Father would visit his sons each in their hour, looking thus far into the future, we see your Heavenly Father, the Heavenly Grand-father of your spiritual children, visiting with you and your family, and in the course of the visit, we fancy we hear him saying to you, My son you have a beautiful family here; we commend you for your integrity; we will now call you to a higher calling in the Priesthood, and confer upon you power and authority whereby you may organize an earth for these your spiritual children to dwell upon, that they may also tabernacle in the flesh, and become like unto us. See yonder is space unoccupied and here are materials - go to and organize them into an earth, like unto the other earths

that have heretofore been organized, and when you have done this bring me word, for I am with you always. Again, this to you is a new experience but to your heavenly Father it is not.
(Brigham Young, 1/27/1860 Recorded in Wilford Woodruff's Journal)

"Man is the offspring of God. Who can fully realize this? Our Heavenly Father orders all things that pertain to this earth and to multitudes of worlds of which we are ignorant. We are as much the children of this great Being as we are the children of our mortal progenitors. We are flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone, and the same fluid that circulates in our bodies, called blood, once circulated in his veins as it does in ours."
(Brigham Young, JD 9:283)

John Taylor

Adam is the father of our bodies. Who is to say he is not the Father of our spirits?

God is interested in the dead as well as the living. Adam is the Ancient of Days and the father of the human family . . .

Man . . . bears the impress of *Jehovah*, is made after his image, in his likeness . . . He possesses also, power to perpetuate his species, as also to communicate his thoughts, his intelligence, genius, and power to others, that are formed like him. He received his intelligence, his spirit, from God, he is part of himself, A spark of Deity, Struck from the fire of his eternal blaze; mankind came from God as his son, he bears the impress of *Jehovah*, even in his fallen degenerate corrupted state. His powerful intellect, his stately genius, his grasping ambition, his soaring, and in many instances, exalted hopes, display, though he be fallen, the mark of greatness; he bears the impress of Deity and shows that he is of divine origin.
("The Government of God" by John Taylor, 9:79-80)

Wilford Woodruff

The Lecture at the veil is true. Procreation is the gift of Eternal Lives, and if we are faithful we shall create worlds and people them just as Adam has done.

(Journal of Wilford Woodruff 6/11/1892)

Lorenzo Snow

“As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may be.” (Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow (1884))

Joseph F. Smith

In the vision of the redemption of the Dead, canonized as section 138, Joseph F. Smith witnessed the Savior’s appearance in the spirit world. It is interesting to note what Jesus said to Mary just before he made this appearance. “Jesus saith unto her, ‘Hold me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.’” (John 20:17 JST) And what does Joseph F. Smith then see? A great assembly of the righteous who welcomed Jesus presided over by Adam. “Among the great and mighty ones who were assembled in this vast congregation of the righteous were Father Adam, the Ancient of Days and Father of all, And our glorious Mother Eve, with many of her faithful daughters who had lived through the ages and worshiped the true and living God.” (D&C 138:38-39)

Joseph F. Smith also spoke many times about how God works, that He obeys natural laws and operates in a reasonable and logical manner. He was explicit that Jesus was the Son of God the Father, and that God the Father was Adam: “The Son, Jesus Christ, grew and developed into manhood the same as you or I, as likewise did God, his father grow and develop to the Supreme Being that he now is. Man was born of woman; Christ the Savior, was born of woman; and God, the Father, was born of woman. Adam was also our earthly parent, and was born of woman, the same as Jesus and you and I.” (Deseret Evening News 12/27/1913)

Various other authorities

Consider the original words of this classic hymn, now found as Hymn 51 in our modern hymnal:

Sons of Michael He Approaches

Sons of Michael, He approaches! Rise, the Eternal Father greet;
Bow ye thousands, low before him; Minister before his feet;
Hail, hail the Patriarch's glad reign,
Spreading over sea and main.

Sons of Michael, 'tis his chariot Rolls its burning wheels along!
Raise aloft your voices million In a torrent power of song;
Hail, hail our Head with music soft!
Raise sweet melodies aloft!

Mother of our generations, Glorious by Great Michael's side,
Take thy children's adoration; Endless with thy Lord preside;
Lo, lo, to greet thee now advance,
Thousands in the glorious dance!

Raise a chorus, sons of Michael, Like old Ocean's roaring swell,
Till the mighty acclamation Through rebounding space doth tell
That, that the Ancient One doth reign,
In his Paradise again!

How divine these verses! Praising the Lord as he rides on
his chariot of fire to the earth again. Both our Father and Our
Mother in heaven praised for their sacrifice for us and their
triumph over evil!

"My brethren and sisters, it is a glorious truth that has been taught to us, that we are literally the children of God, that we are his literal descendants, as Jesus was literally descended from Him, and that He is our Father as much as our earthly parent is our father, and we can go to Him with a feeling of nearness, knowing this, understanding it by the revelations which God has given to us." (George Q Cannon, JD 25:155)

But Why Does it Matter?

What does it mean? Why does it matter if God is Adam? or why does it matter if we are "created" or "begotten" sons and daughters of God? Isn't it a blasphemy to say that God has all the body, parts, and passions of a man? That the nature of Man and the nature of God are one and the same? For centuries the world has been taught that God is the opposite of Man, that: man is evil, God is sublime. It is one of the original heresies to teach that Jesus, or His father were men, subject to all the same pains, and passions and temptations that we are. In short: the entire Christian world has perpetuated for centuries the idea that God is not one of us, he is different, he is and always has been "God" and never was a man, and men can never become gods.

True prophets have never taught faith in such an incomprehensible and impotent being: "without body, parts or passions; big enough to fill the universe, and small enough to live within your heart." Such pithy phrases may seem to inspire a type of sentimentality, but they distort the truth in such a way that they destroy faith in the plan of salvation. By teaching the plan of salvation Joseph Smith turned the doctrines of the entire Christian world on their head. He taught the idea that God was not just figuratively our father, he is literally our Father, and that the entire reason the world was created, the entire reason we are here, was so that we could grow to become like him. He taught that God was not an austere celibate priest, as the Catholics then taught, he was a part of an eternal family.

In order to be a family we understand that God is married; we have a Heavenly Mother as well as a Heavenly Father. We can also be a part of this eternal family, sealed to them, and to our own posterity for all eternity, literally becoming joint heirs with Jesus Christ, and partake of all that the Father has. (Rom. 8:17, D&C 84:38) If we then are truly, and literally God's children, then we are heirs according to his promises, if however Adam was simply

made of mud, then what could be our promise? They say that the apple does not fall far from the tree, if we are mere dust, then to dust we shall return, to rise no more. If we are children, then God can claim us through the resurrection and redeem us, bringing us back into his presence. If we originate with just the dust of the earth, how could we be said to "return" to a God we could never have known? This is poetically displayed in the words of the Hymn by Eliza R Snow:

O My Father! [Hymns 292]

O my Father, thou that dwellest In the high and glorious place,
When shall I regain thy presence And again behold thy face?
In thy holy habitation, Did my spirit once reside?
In my first primeval childhood Was I nurtured near thy side?

I had learned to call thee 'Father,' Thru thy Spirit from on high,
But, until the key of knowledge Was restored, I knew not why.
In the heavens are parents single? No, the thought makes reason
stare!

Truth is reason; truth eternal, Tells me I've a Mother there!

When I leave this frail existence, When I lay this mortal by,
Father, Mother, may I meet you In your royal courts on high?
Then, at length, when I've completed All you sent me forth to do,
With your mutual approbation Let me come and dwell with you!

The plan of Salvation hinges on a proper understanding that God is our Father, and that we are part of this eternal family. Indeed the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ depends upon a proper understanding that we are God's children. Eliza R. Snow is even quoted as saying, "When Brigham Young proclaimed to the nations that Adam was our Father and God, and Eve, his partner, the Mother of a world--both in a mortal and celestial sense--he made the most important revelation ever oracled to the race since the days of Adam himself.
(Eliza R. Snow, from *Women of Mormondom*, p. 196)

If the blood that flows within your veins was literally begotten by God, then you are his heir, and the plan of salvation is real. Heavenly Father created this earth and came down with his wife Eve, partook of the elements or "dust" of this earth by eating the fruits of this earth in order to give physical birth to the human race. This is why it is said that we are made in the express image of God. This is why Jesus said that he did only what he has seen the father do: Condescend from heaven, take upon himself all the pains of mortality in order to give us life! and then to take his place in heaven again, just as Adam did.

The plan of salvation depends upon this truth. Indeed the Fatherhood of God doctrine is the keystone of Mormonism, without it the entire doctrine falls. If we are not animated by the same spirit, if we were not the same species and family as God, then we could not become like him.

Yet, there are many who abhor the idea that "God is the first of the human family." Thousands of religious teachers have taught for centuries that God is the very opposite of man. The entire apostasy hinges on this misunderstanding, and when we perpetuate the apostate doctrines and ideas that we are separate from God, and are fundamentally of a different type, even species, we are in apostasy.

The mainstream Mormon church today, in order to be accepted by the mainstream Christian religions has been avoiding this doctrine, even renouncing it as the "Adam-God theory." This doctrine has been deemphasized until it is the fodder of speculation and mocked in anti-Mormon literature. But in reality the doctrine that we are the literal offspring of God, is the most sublime teaching of the restoration, the one doctrine upon which all others have their foundation.

This understanding that God is our father is not new, it is the most ancient truth, known by not only all the prophets since the world began, but also well known to myriads of truth seekers, branded heretics, for the last two thousand years. For example on

the cover of this booklet is a portion of the fresco painted by Michelangelo on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel. This portion of that painting called "The Creation of Man" is a pictorial testimony of this supreme doctrine. The mists of darkness before the eyes of the world, perhaps even before your own eyes until today, lead most viewers to misidentify the figures in the painting.

Turn to the front of this booklet and you will see God reaching out his hand toward the naked figure of a man. The devil has been deceiving the world so well that most people assume that God the Father is reaching out to "Adam." That God has just made a statute of a man from dirt, and is now putting "life" magically into it, so that it can come alive and be "Adam." but if we look closely for the figure of Eve, it is not at the side of the figure to the left, it is literally embraced by the figure at the right. Our sacred Heavenly Mother is at his side, presiding with him, imparting life to humanity. Thus we see that the creation of Man, is our creation by God, our father, Adam, and birth from our heavenly Mother, Eve, who are the first of the human family. Michelangelo painted Eve under Adam's arm in reference to her as the "rib" of Adam. He painted the naked man, as us, their children, so that we could be reminded to reach out back to God who created us, so that we could grow to become exalted as they are.

One insight that helps to clarify this doctrine scripturally is to realize that "Adam" in the original Hebrew is not a name, it is a word. "Adam" is the word: "Man." This is also why Jesus Christ constantly affirmed that he was the "Son of Man." This can be literally translated to mean "I am the Son of Adam." This was why the Pharisees charged him with blasphemy for saying he was the "Son of God" because they knew that to say that he was the "Son of Man" or Adam, was the same thing as to say that he was the "Son of God."

The Fatherhood of God doctrine, referring to God as our progenitor, Adam, was most succinctly taught by Lorenzo Snow when he stated:

"As Man is, God once was; and as God is, Man may become"

Why Can't More Latter Day Saints Believe That Adam Is God?

"It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible." (Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345)

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." Jesus Christ said these words in his great intercessory prayer as he entered the garden of Gethsemane, John 17:3.

How important is it to know for a certainty the character of God? The 131st section of the Doctrine & Covenants starts out, "In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; and in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter in this order of the priesthood....and if he does not, he cannot obtain it. He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase. The more sure word of prophecy means a man's knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood. It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance." (D&C 131:1-6) There is no room for ignorance in reaching the highest degree in the celestial kingdom where God the Father dwells.

Philip the disciple asked Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us."(John 14:8) Jesus proceeded to teach about the comforter, and another comforter and how Jesus would manifest himself to them. Then Judas (not Iscariot) asked how he will manifest himself to them (John 14:22) and Jesus furthered, "If a

man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and WE will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

It would appear the people in the highest glory of the celestial kingdom will know God the Father because of their righteousness and because He has come to them. So let’s start with the primary difficulty in understanding the true identity of God the Father of this world.

We are going to illustrate how Michael or Adam is our God and the Father of Heaven and Earth. The knowledge of who Michael or Adam is in the plan of salvation is as critical to obtaining exaltation as baptism is to salvation

First, we must believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. (Article of Faith 1) This is the Godhead over this world. We have a great opportunity to see Patriarchal Priesthood in action as we look into the temple ceremony and examine the roles and titles of the priesthood. Here is where the identity of God is lost to most Mormons. The figurative players in the temple ordinance are Eloheim, Jehovah, and Michael. Now what is meant by the symbolic use of these titles? It is a priesthood hierarchy or chain of command. Michael (Adam) reports to Jehovah (This title means "I AM"), Jehovah reports to Eloheim (or "Council of the Gods"; TPJS p 371-372). These various names are actually descriptive titles in the priesthood—just like high priest or patriarch. Furthermore, there is never an express statement that we are talking about the Godhead of this world as presently constituted when we view the temple ceremony characters.

The misunderstanding that stops many Latter-Day Saints from believing that Michael (Adam) is our God comes from a misinterpretation of the temple ceremony. Modern Mormons have for decades incorrectly placed the wrong person into the priesthood titles of the figurative characters in the temple. They mistakenly believe that Michael is reporting to Jesus, and that Jesus is reporting to God the Father. To mistakenly place them into this

order makes Michael subordinate to Jesus. Recall that Michael reported to Jehovah - not Jesus. And Jehovah reported to Eloheim - which Joseph Smith clearly revealed is translated as "Gods" or "Council of Gods" (TPJS p371-372). In identifying the characters of the Endowment it was recorded by Joseph F. Smith that: "Eloheim, Yahovah and Michael are Father, Son, and Grandson. They made this earth and Michael became Adam" (Joseph F. Smith Journal, 6/17/1871)

By labeling the ceremony characters incorrectly it is too confusing to believe that Michael could possibly be the God of this world when he is answering to Jesus, rather than being his father. But he did not report to Jesus (he reported to Jehovah) and the perpetuation of this belief has left Latter Day Saints in ignorance and without the knowledge and power to know Him. In the following paragraphs we will provide some evidence and rationale to clear up the confusion.

The first question is, who was ultimately charged with peopling the earth? It was Michael who was to be called Adam (another priesthood title or else why wouldn't he be called Michael?) Now here's the next question for you to consider thoughtfully. If you were already a God and you wanted to have an earth peopled how would you do it? Would you create a man without any earthly experience to get the whole of humanity onto its feet and marching in time to Godly principles? How good a job would you have done if chosen to be Patriarch of the whole human race? If you were God wouldn't you feel the obligation and desire to create and people your own earth? And after all, you and your spouse as Celestial Beings are the only ones with a body. How could a man be born if not from the natural process of birth? and how could anyone give birth without a body? This is why Joseph Smith in the beginning quote said, "he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on earth." Michael was a God and lived and made his salvation sure on another earth and received his exaltation and a resurrected body. There is a pattern that is followed in heaven. We as humans come through the veil through procreation, and return through the veil in

death, and then become raised again through resurrection. This is the order of heaven and course set by the laws of the universe and God works within these laws. How could we expect that Michael (Adam) would be able to obtain a body by any other means than these laws?

If Michael (Adam) had a body he must have received His exaltation and He must have answered to the God of His earth. Michael's God must have loved a faithful son like Michael and would have been His connection to the chain of Gods throughout eternity. So when Michael reports to His priesthood head in the temple ceremony he is reporting to Jehovah (His Father) and likewise Jehovah reports to His head in the priesthood, which is figuratively Eloheim (council of Gods). This is Patriarchal Priesthood—a line of priesthood file leadership in the highest order.

In actuality Michael is the God of this earth and reports to His God Jehovah (a priesthood title, remember it never said Jesus in the temple ceremony) and Jehovah reports to Eloheim (the chain or council of the Gods). Unfortunately this powerful truth is stifled and modern Mormons lose a most critical point in their celestial quest “to know for a certainty the Character of God.” I will say that knowing the identity and name of the God of this earth is only a beginning to Joseph's statement, “to know for a certainty the Character of God.”

The sad truth is that by interposing the wrong person into the temple ceremony characters we cannot without further instruction learn of this simple and vital eternal truth. Brigham Young was very intent on teaching the correct perception of Deity and had a special lecture added to the temple ceremony to help create understanding. Today this explanation has been removed. There is no explanation of the temple ceremony during a temple session nor is there freedom from guilt of talking about the temple ceremony outside of the temple, and so we dwindle in ignorance and *disbelief*, teaching for doctrines the philosophies of men mingled with scripture. Without further light and knowledge,

which we are taught to seek after, we make an eternal mistake of coming up short of exaltation. “This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent.”
D&C 132:24(22-25)

Additionally, if someone is inspired to think or question what is now common belief and tries to ask a bishop or gospel doctrines “expert” for the truth, the seeker will be disappointed because tradition has taken over true doctrine. Misconceptions have been taught and perpetuated as doctrines for so many decades that the reality is lost. Furthermore when the person is confused sometimes the answers are too perplexing and the mystery goes unsolved. I suggest reading one of the many books written on Adam being our God and see if the evidence is not overwhelming. I didn’t always believe as I do now. I did, however, test the seed as Alma recommends to see if it was good, and found that I grew in faith and my understanding was enlightened. (Alma 32:26-34) Please take the challenge that Moroni gave to “ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true. And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost” Moroni 10:4(3-5)

Once you have received a witness of this basic truth it becomes a key by which you will be able to unlock further mysteries, until you can come to truly know God for yourself, and comprehend your own nature, and place in the plan of salvation. As Joseph Smith taught: “Having a knowledge of God, we begin to know how to approach Him, and how to ask so as to receive an answer. When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, He begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to him, he is ready to come to us.”(TPJS p349-350)

This should not be a "deep doctrine" or a "mystery", instead this is the very first principle of the Gospel: Faith.

"It should be borne in mind that these wonderful mysteries, as they are supposed to be, are only mysteries because of the ignorance of men; and when men and women are troubled in spirit over those things which come to light through the proper channel of intelligence, they only betray their weakness, ignorance, and folly. " (Mill. Star 15:825)

It is clear from scripture that it is important to know who God is, particularly in regards to his character and attributes again read this passage from the Lectures on Faith: "Let us here observe, that three things are necessary in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith unto salvation. First, the idea that He [God] actually exists. Secondly, a correct idea of His character, perfections, and attributes. Thirdly, an actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing is according to His will. (Lectures on Faith, 3:2-5)

Nevertheless, if you feel that this is a doctrine that you cannot accept, do not fear. be comforted by these words from a Latter-Day prophet and apostle, Elder Franklin D. Richards:

"Adam is our Father and our God. [But] I have to say, do not trouble yourselves, neither let the Saints be troubled about that matter. . . . Tell the Saints that if this stone does not seem to fit into the great building of their faith just now, to roll it aside. You can help them roll it out of their way, so that they will not stumble against it while at their daily duties, and it will be but a short time till they will find a place in their building where no other stone will fit; then it will be on hand all right, and will come into its place in the building of their faith with the sound of hammer or chisel."

(Mill. Star 16:534)

There are many other books and pamphlets that reveal this eternal truth. Please ask those who gave you this booklet for more information.

May God bless you as you search to know Him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:3)

In this little booklet we hope you will find greater understanding of the nature of God. This is a subject of vital importance for all who seek Him, and yet it has been a source of terrible controversy. We hope that these words will help you to dispel misunderstandings and develop faith that God is our Father, and that you are his child.

Have you ever desired to live the fullness of the gospel? Do you look forward to building the city of the New Jerusalem? If so we invite you to gather with us and establish Zion.

For further information visit

www.ChristsChurchTheBranch.org

Or please contact the missionaries at:
Right.Branch@Gmail.com
or call 1 (801) 769-6279

If we are too busy meeting with others to meet with you right away, or if the number on the back of this booklet is busy when you call, I hope that you will try again. Please remember: "seek and ye shall find, knock and the door will open."

