

Resolving Two Mormon Concepts of the Creating Godhead

INTRODUCTION

Is there a problem today with the church teachings of the creation Godhead? These teachings are based on the revelations given to Joseph Smith, and yet there are concerns whether they are completely correct.

One major concern is that President Young, who [codified](#) the Temple ceremony under the direction of Joseph in Nauvoo, and by himself out West, taught some of these teachings differently.

The church today teaches that Jehovah and Michael were **spirits** when they created this earth, and yet Brigham taught that they were **resurrected**, and from a previous earth-- Jehovah being the Savior of that previous earth just as the resurrected Jesus is the Jehovah of this earth when it is celestialized.

The church also teaches today that the Holy Ghost is a spirit son of Elohim who has never lived in the flesh, but apparently was not involved in creating our earth with Jehovah and Michael.

The resurrected understanding harmonizes with the Abraham 3 teaching that this life is a test and a Second Estate that we must prove worthy to "keep". Since spirits have not even been given their Second Estate, and thus have not kept their Second Estate, it does not seem correct that they would be creating this earth and be the Holy Ghost for this earth.

These points are numbered to make feedback on them easier. These points try to present the present teachings of the CJCLDS church accurately and then present our concerns. If anything is said inaccurately, please tell us.

1. The church teaches today that the Creators during the six days of creation were Elohim, Jehovah and Michael. This is taught in the Temple. It is taught that Elohim was the resurrected Father of the spirits Jehovah and Michael and also the spirit that becomes the Holy Ghost. The church teaches that Jehovah and Michael when they created our earth were the spirits that became Jesus and Adam. As spirits, they had never experienced having a physical body, never had been given their Second Estate, and thus had not passed the testing to "keep" their Second Estate. (Abr 3:25-26)

2. The church teaches that the spirit of Jesus was the Old Testament Jehovah. Yet the scriptures have these verses that teach that Jesus was the "Son" of Jehovah-- the Most High.

Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is *my Father* that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: --John 8:54

In this verse Jesus himself says that his *Father* is the one that the Jews say is their God. This can only mean Jehovah, the LORD (יהוה), who is mentioned 6828 times in the Hebrew Bible as the God of Israel.

He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son of the Highest**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: --Luke 1:32

This revelation to Mary concerning her future son also indicates that Jesus would be the **"Son" of the Highest**. [Psalm 83:18](#) in Hebrew says that Jehovah (יהוה) is the "Most High" God.

D&C 109:4 prays "Holy Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of thy bosom..." and in 33 times of invoking God, Jehovah is used 3 times. D&C 109 is a prayer to Jehovah in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.

3. The church teaches that the spirit Michael who became Adam, was one of the Creators. He was not God, but an archangel. Yet the D&C says angels are not just spirits, but have resurrected bodies.

There are two kinds of beings in heaven, namely: ANGELS, who are RESURRECTED Personages, having bodies of flesh and bones ... Secondly: the spirits of just men made perfect... --D&C 129:1,3

Why would the greatest "Archangel" not be an actual angel, but just a spirit that is called an angel?

4. The church teaches that the Holy Ghost is another spirit child of Elohim that has never experienced having a physical body – he has never been given and "kept" his Second Estate. (Abr 3:25-26) Yet somehow the Holy Ghost is able to comfort us in a world that he has never lived in or watched the judgment of, and somehow understands all languages, people and human knowledge – and can handle the horrors of war and other evils that go on. The Holy Ghost is fathering and teaching humans that have more experience in the flesh than He does? Does it really make sense that a Spirit, with less experience in the flesh than any two year old that you know, would be ready to be the Holy Ghost for the entire earth for all these millennia?

5. There is no evidence that we know of in church teaching that the spirit that becomes the Holy Ghost takes part in the creation with the spirit that became Jesus and the spirit that became Adam. But why would the Creators in the six days of creation only be two members of the Godhead and a spirit "archangel"?

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6. In church teachings, Elohim is understood to be the Father, and Jehovah is understood to be the Son, but Michael is NOT understood to be the one who becomes the Holy Ghost. President Young, however, did teach that Adam (Michael) was God, and on one occasion indirectly taught that Michael was the one that would be the Holy Ghost for our world-- apparently taking this office after he died.

"It is true that the earth was organized by three distinct characters, namely, Eloheim, Yahovah, and Michael, these three forming a quorum, as in all heavenly bodies, and in organizing element, perfectly represented in the Deity, as Father [Elohim], Son [Yahovah], and Holy Ghost [Michael]!" --[JD 1:51](#) BY

Since Brigham also taught that we are the spirit children of Michael, it would make sense that the Father of our spirits would be our Comforter, the Spirit of Truth that teaches us, and Holy Spirit of promise that seals all of the covenants of his spirit children.

"I [Adam] want my children who are in the spirit world to come and live here. I once dwelt upon an earth something like this, in a mortal state, I was faithful, I received my crown and exaltation. I have the privilege of extending my work, and to its increase there will be no end. I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come here and take tabernacles of flesh, that their spirits may have a house, a tabernacle or a dwelling place as mine has, and where is the mystery." --*Deseret News* #308 Brigham Young discourse of June 8th, 1873. *Read in context:* [APPENDIX](#)

7. Mormon scripture reveals that God creates worlds without number like our earth with an Adam and his posterity:

33 And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

34 And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many.

35 But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you. For behold, there are many worlds that have passed away by the word of my power. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.--Moses 1

This 1830 revelation to Joseph supports his First Vision in which it was revealed that the Father of Jesus has a resurrected body like His very own Son – which resurrected body must have come from a previous earth.

It also supports Brigham's teaching that even as each earth has its own Adam and Eve, so likewise each earth has its own Savior – and thus the creation and Old Testament Jehovah is the Savior of Adam from a previous earth.

"President Young said there never was any world created & peopled nor never would be but what would be redeemed by the shedding of the blood of the **Savior of that world.**" – Journal of Wilford Woodruff; May 12, 1867

8. Here is an October 8, 1854 quote by Brigham about Jehovah and Michael being resurrected beings from a previous earth

"Moses said Adam was made of the dust of the ground, but he did not say of what ground. I say he was not made of the dust of the ground of this earth, but he was made of the dust of the earth where he lived, where he honored his calling, believing in his Savior, or Elder Brother, and by his faithfulness, was redeemed, and got a glorious resurrection."

https://web.archive.org/web/20060910030633/http://www.xmission.com/~country/by/100854_2.htm

9. Here is a quote by Brigham about Eve from a file of Adam-God teachings: <http://2bc.info/Misc/AG230.pdf>

"Many of the sisters grieve because they are not blessed with offspring. You will see the time when you will have millions of children around you. If you are faithful to your covenants, you will become mothers of nations. YOU WILL BECOME **EVES TO EARTHS LIKE THIS**; and when you have assisted in peopling one earth there are millions of earths still in the course of creation." – [JD 8:208](#); Brigham Young, Salt Lake City; October 14, 1860.

Today the church teaching is that Adam and Eve were **spirit children** of the resurrected Elohim before coming to earth. This doctrine means that any woman in the church today could never become an Eve. To be an Eve she would have had to have been the Eve of this earth. Once they have lived in the flesh they cannot ever be a Eve under that doctrine.

And in the Temple, when the couples are to consider themselves as Adam and Eve, again under the doctrine that Adam and Eve were spirits that never have lived in the flesh, it seems strange to ask the couples to consider themselves something they could never be.

But if Brigham is correct, Adam and Eve were resurrected joint-heirs with their resurrected Savior from a previous earth, and so likewise the faithful today can become Adams and Eves on future earths as joint-heirs with their resurrected Savior Jesus.

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10. Here is the **Abraham 3** scripture that speaks of the Second Estate-- which is our mortal life.

25 And we will *PROVE THEM* them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who **KEEP their SECOND ESTATE** shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.

How could Jehovah, Michael and the Holy Ghost have been spirits that had never been given and kept their SECOND ESTATE and still be the ones that created our earth and became the Holy Ghost for our earth? They are creating an earth but have never been "proved" on earth, which is the purpose of the earth they create?

11. The Adam-God teachings of President Young have been a problem for the church. Although President Kimball spoke against them, was he actually saying that President Young taught false doctrine?

ELDEN WATSON STATEMENT

Explaining President Kimball's Oct 1976
Remarks Condemning the Adam-God theory

"At the time this statement [by President Kimball] was made in the 1976 Priesthood conference, I was serving on a priesthood committee under the direction of Elder Mark E. Petersen. We were at that time working with a number of people who believed the Adam-God theory, and our committee wanted to know more precisely what President Kimball meant by his statement, so through Elder Petersen we made an appointment with him and asked him.

In a private interview President Kimball made the following clarifications: **He said that he did not say that President Brigham Young did not make the statements which are attributed to him, nor did he claim that they were falsely reported. Neither did he say that Brigham Young taught false doctrine.**

What he did say and what he meant is that the Adam-God theory is false, and the Adam-God theory is that interpretation which is placed on Brigham Young's words by present day apostates and fundamentalists - their understanding of what Brigham Young meant is false."

– <http://eldenwatson.net/7AdamGod.htm>

(This quote is under **Official Statement by the Church**)

If one believes D&C 136 is actual Word of the Lord revelation, can they honestly reject without full consideration other claims of revelation by Brigham?

By our understanding if Brigham had explained his Adam-God teachings clear enough they would have been accepted. Brigham's doctrine can be understood using Romans 8:16-17:

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the *children of God*: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and *joint-heirs* with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also *glorified together*."

These verses teach that Jesus is an heir of God, and that the faithful are also "children of God" and can be "joint-heirs" with Christ. **Do not children have the potential to become what they are children of? If one "inherits" what God has, are they not equal with God?**

This makes no sense, of course, to those that believe that God is not a Being, but is an immaterial body-less "Spirit" totally unlike His supposed "children" --having sole power as Creator that no resurrected human could ACTUALLY "inherit" as a joint-heir.

The Holy Ghost in the Godhead being "glorified together" as a full "joint-heir" with the Son is the best example of this. **He is not the Savior of the world, but he is still "God". Does not a third member of the Godhead prove that others besides the Savior inherit the power of God?** Is he actually the ghost of Adam and the Father of Spirits? (Point 6) If Adam truly is the Father of our spirits, as one of the Creators is he not the best possibility of being the Holy Ghost?

D&C 132:37 also teaches this doctrine that others besides the Savior become "gods" in the Elohim.

"...and because they [Abraham, Issac and Jacob] did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods."

Because of their perfect unity all in the Elohim, worlds without end, are COLLECTIVELY One, Infinite, Eternal, Unchangeable God as revealed in D&C 20:17.

"By these things we know that there is a God [the Elohim] in heaven, who is INFINITE and ETERNAL, from everlasting to everlasting the same UNCHANGEABLE God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them;"--D&C 20:17

Since we can become like Adam and Eve, then Adam is OUR Father and God. Jesus has a different Father and God: Jehovah, the Savior of Adam from the previous earth.

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We cannot become a Savior like Jesus and his Father, but we can become joint-heirs with them.

Is the Father and God of Jesus different than the Father and God of his disciples?

"... 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

So the doctrine that President Young was teaching is understood by accepting that there are Saviors and joint-heirs that gain exaltation. When one believes what Romans 8:16-17 ACTUALLY says then they are prepared to understand the basic Adam-God doctrine.

Which is that we are spirit children of Adam-- a joint-heir in the Elohim. And as children of God we have the potential to be joint-heirs with Jesus even as our Father Adam is with his Savior Jehovah.

12. President Young codified the endowment under the direction of Joseph in Nauvoo and by himself out West. [See verification]. So why should anyone think that the endowment ceremony originally supported the present day church teachings about Adam **and not the teachings of President Young, who prepared the ceremony?**

To be clear, we do not believe that President Young's Adam-God teachings should be fully accepted. They were never presented as a revelation, and many faithful then and since cannot reconcile them with the scriptures. So we do agree that it was correct for the church to lay them aside and not teach them until the controversies over them are resolved.

And we are convinced there must be at least some errors in what Brigham taught on this. For instance, Jesus can only be the *Only Begotten* of Jehovah in the flesh, because Adam had many sons and daughters.

What we advocate is that anyone reading this paper pray for the faithful to receive and accept further Word of the Lord revelation on the matter that reconciles the issues that we have brought up and any other issues. Article of Faith 9 promises that many great and important things will yet be revealed.

NOTES

What Today Is Taught About the Godhead

Elohim the Father: "the Holy Ghost, the member of the Godhead who deals most often and most directly with humans, is a God and a spirit, but **God the Father** and God the Son are spirits with physical, **resurrected bodies.**"

https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/God_the_Father

Jehovah: "Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus was Jehovah himself, God of Israel, not son of Jehovah."

https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Jesus_Christ_Names_and_Titles_of

Michael: "In his premortal and postmortal roles, he is known as Michael and as the archangel (D&C 29:26)"

https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adam#LDS_Sources

Holy Ghost: "the Holy Ghost is a spirit man, a spirit son of God the Father."

https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Holy_Ghost

Adam: "Latter-day scriptures attest that Adam is a son of God, that his physical body was created by the gods in their own image and placed in the Garden of Eden"

https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adam#LDS_Sources

RESEARCH

Showing the history of disunity in the church, and thus the need for further revelation as promised

"Jehovah as the Father – The Development of the Mormon Jehovah Doctrine" By Boyd Kirkland

<https://sunstonemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/sbi/articles/044-36-44.pdf>

"The Development of the Concept of a Holy Ghost in Mormon Theology" By Vern G. Swanson

<http://signaturebookslibrary.org/line-upon-line-09/>

God in Mormonism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Mormonism

DISCUSSION

Facebook group:

Adam-God Teachings of Brigham Young

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/559951095029494>

Posts of this group are in this file for anyone not on Facebook:

<https://www.2bc.info/pdf/2Thrones.pdf>

efriendsinbox@hotmail.com

United Order Publications

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<http://www.2bc.info/pdf/Creation2.pdf>

URL to this pdf in Swedish:

<http://www.2bc.info/pdf/Creation3.pdf>

**Comments by President Brigham Young
Concerning Adam as the Father
of our Spirits**

These comments are from the June 18, 1873 edition of the Deseret News. An image of this page can be read online:

<https://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/digital/collection/desnews3/id/143025>

The following excerpt starts in the 4th column from the left, 47th line down (around 1/3 the way down).

“How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which **God revealed to me** – namely that **Adam is our Father and God** – I do not know, I do not inquire, I care nothing about it. Our Father Adam **helped** to make this earth, it was created expressly **for him**, and after it was made he and his companions came here. He brought one of his wives with him, and she was called Eve, because she was the first woman on the earth. Our Father Adam is the man who stands at the gate and holds the keys of everlasting life and salvation to all his children who have or will ever will come upon the earth. I have been found fault with by the ministers of religion because I have said that they are ignorant. But 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.** ..

(5th column from left, 48th line down)...

We say that Father Adam came here and helped to make the earth. Who is he? He is **Michael, a great prince**, and it was said to him by **Elohiem**, “Go ye and make an earth.” What is the great mystery about it? He came and formed the earth. Geologists tell us that it was here millions of years ago. How do they know? They

know nothing about it. But suppose it was here, what of it? Adam found it in a state of chaos, unorganized and incomplete. ...

(77th line down)

... “Well,” says one, “Why was Adam called Adam”? He was the first man on the earth, and its framer and maker. He with the help of his brethren, brought it into existence. Then he said, **“I want my children who are in the spirit world to come and live here. I once dwelt upon an earth something like this, in a mortal state, I was faithful, I received my crown and exaltation. I have the privilege of extending my work, and to its increase there will be no end. I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come here and take tabernacles of flesh, that their spirits may have a house, a tabernacle or a dwelling place as mine has, and where is the mystery?”**

[RETURN](#)

**Comment by President Joseph Smith
Concerning Adam and Eve
as Resurrected Beings**

This comment is from the “Journal of Anson Call”, page 264. An image of this page can be read online. You will have to log into familysearch.org with an account (free) to view this.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/390988-the-journal-of-anson-call> Page 264, or do a word search for “another planet”

“Now regarding Adam: He came here from another planet, an immortalized being and brought one of his wives, Eve, with him, and by eating of the fruits of this earth became subject to death and decay and he became of the earth earthy, was made mortal and subject to death.”

APPENDIX

Quote from the Journal of L John Nuttall dated February 7, 1877 verifying that Brigham Young codified the endowment under the direction of Joseph in Nauvoo.

You can read a typescript version of this Feb 7, 1877 entry starting in the second sentence in the second paragraph under that date:

<https://archive.org/details/TheJournalOfLJohnNuttall/page/n3/mode/2up>

“Prest. Young was filled with the spirit of God and revelation, and said:”

[Return to Point 12](#)

“when we got our washings and anointings under the hands of the Prophet Joseph at Nauvoo, we had only one room to work in with the exception of a little side room, or office, where we were washed and anointed, had our garments placed upon us, and received our new name.”

“And after he had performed these ceremonies, he gave the key words, signs, tokens and penalties. Then, after we went into the large room over the store in Nauvoo, Joseph divided up the room the best that he could, hung up the veil, marked it. Gave us our instructions as we passed along from one department to another, giving us signs, tokens, penalties, with the key words pertaining to those signs,”

“and after we had got through Bro. Joseph turned to me (Prest. B. Young) and said,”

“Bro. Brigham this is not arranged right but we have done the best we could under the circumstances in which we are placed, and I wish you to take this matter in hand and organize and systematize all these ceremonies with the signs, tokens, penalties and key words.”

“I did so, and each time I got something more, so that when we went through the temple at Nauvoo I understood and knew how to place them there.”