

Understanding the Godhead 1 – God the Father

(Priest Lesson January 2015 – Roald Peterson)

Introduction

Joseph Smith once said,

“... 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;”

I think the second most important thing is to know that we are literally his children. I don't know of any other people outside the Mormons who believe that God is literally our Father. This means that he cares. It also means we have a Mother in Heaven. Everything around us teaches that offspring can grow up to be like their parents. That being the case, knowing about God and knowing God should be our highest priorities, for God is our origin and God is our destiny.

What is God?

Read selections from Joseph Smith's *King Follett Sermon* (*Ensign*, April & May 1971.)

Read [Gen 1:26-27](#) and [D&C 130:22-23](#).

- God is an exalted man, with body and form of a man.
- His physical body is made of flesh and bones.
- He is resurrected. (Cannot die. Alma 12)
- Sits in glory and enthroned in everlasting power.
- Christ has a body of flesh and bones.
- Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit – so he can dwell in us.
- God is self-existent, always existed, always will.

Where Did God Come From?

- God was a mortal man who lived on another planet like we are doing.
- He also had gods before him.
- Learned how to be god.

Read [DC 93:12-13](#)

- Worked out his kingdom with fear and trembling.
- Went from one degree to another, grace for grace.

Where Does God Live?

Read [DC 130:4-11](#).

- Lives on a globe like a sea of glass and fire.
- Dwells in everlasting burnings.
- His planet is great Urim and Thummim to show things of lesser or lower kingdoms
- He has a white stone – Urim and Thummim for things of higher order kingdoms.

Read [Abraham 3:2-4](#).

- Star nearest to God is named Kolob.

Read [Joseph Smith—History 1:30-33, 43](#)

- Heaven (God's presence) not far in distance – but located in another space (dimension.)

What About God and Time?

- Time depends upon the planet or space you're in. (Relativity: Time depends on space, velocity, gravity)

- Past, present, & future continually before God.
- God's time is based on Kolob's rotations.

Read [2 Peter 3:8](#); [DC 130:7](#); [Alma 40:8](#)

- 1000 years with man is **AS** 1 day with God.
- But that doesn't mean that they are connected.
- All is as one day with God – only the present.
- Time not measured unto God.
- Past, Present, & Future continually before God.

Notice that space and time are talked about in the same scriptures – because they are connected.

Father of All Men and Women

Read [DC 76:23-24](#); [Hebrews 12:9](#); [John 20:17](#).

- We are literally begotten sons & daughters of God.
- God is the Father of our spirits

Remember [Gen 1:27](#) and Read [Gen 2:22-25](#).

- We have a Heavenly Mother. (A must for a father.)
- Read [Luke 3:38](#) and [Moses 6:22](#).
- God is Adam's Father. (Not Adam-God theory!)
 - Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten in mortal flesh.
 - Adam begotten as an immortal.

Creator of All Things

Read [Colossians 1:12-17](#) and [Moses 1:31-38](#).

- Creates all things through Jesus Christ.
- Has created worlds without number- many have passed away – many now stand.
- God's works and words never end.

Read [DC 88:4-13](#).

- Is the source of light, truth, law, glory (intelligences)
- Sends light, truth, glory through universe via Christ.
- Gives life to all things and governs all via Christ.

Read [Moses 6:63](#); [Alma 30:44](#).

- All things bear record of God (the Creator).

Knowledge and Power

Read [1 Nephi 9:6,20](#); [Mormon 9:9](#).

- God knows all things.
- All powerful unto the fulfilling of all his words.
- Never changes – Same yesterday, today, & forever.

Read [Ether 3:12](#).

- Is a God of truth and cannot lie.

Names of God

- God – Identical with Anglo-Saxon word for good.
- Elohim – Plural of el or eloah, means power or exalted one.
- Father in Heaven – Father of spirits & creator of all things.
- Ahman – a name of God in the Adamic language.

Read [Moses 6:35](#).

- Man of Holiness – Perfect (without blemish or sin), Sanctified, consecrated to a spiritual purpose.

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- Endless and Eternal – Lives forever, without end, from eternity to eternity (DC 76:4).
- Man of Counsel – Counsels & teaches (DC 45:9-10).
- Many, many others.

God's Purpose

Read 1Nephi 11:16-17; John 3:16; 2 Nephi 26:24.

- God loves his children so he sent Christ.
- Christ (who does the will of God) does all things for the benefit of mankind.

Read Moses 1:39.

- God's whole purpose and glory is to bring about the immortality and eternal life of his children.

Further Reading

- Joseph Smith, *King Follett Discourse*, 1844.
- *Doctrines of the Gospel*, Institute Manual, Chap 3.