What Did Brigham Really Teach About the.... ADAM-GOD DOCTRINE?

Spencer W. Kimball said, "We warn you against the dissemination of doctrines which are not according to the scriptures and which are alleged to have been taught by some of the General Authorities of past generations. Such, for instance is the Adam-God theory."1

Why did Spencer Kimball call it a theory when Brigham Young called it a doctrine? (please see Sermon †B and the Deseret News reprint portion on the back page). Not only that, but Brigham reportedly said, "I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture." (Journal of Discourses, Volume 13, p. 95)

Those who would be quick to explain away Brigham's sermons should first consider Bruce R. McConkie's startling admission in a letter to Eugene England of B.Y.U. (Feb. 19, 1981):

Yes, President Young did teach that Adam was the father of our spirits, and all the related things that the cultists ascribe to him. This, however, is not true. He expressed views that are out of harmony with the gospel. But, be it known, Brigham Young also taught accurately ... What I am saying is, that Brigham Young, contradicted Brigham Young, and the issue becomes one of which Brigham Young we will believe. ... Yes, Brigham Young did say some things about God progressing in knowledge ...

> Brigham Young Journal of Discourses Brigha Journa Vol. 1

lead me." I was trying to think of the place where God is not, but it is impossible, unless you can find empty space; and there I believe He is not. If you can find such a place, it will become useful for a hiding place to those who wish to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord, in the great day of accounts. I will close this sermon, as I intend to preach another before I present the subject I more particularly wish to speak upon.

My next sermon will be to both saint and sinner. 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 Eldes of Isucel 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 heave and is capable of showing much Library and is capable of showing much Library and is capable of Son possible of the mortal tabernacle or. lf you can find such a place, it will become useful for a hiding place to those who wish to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord, in the great day of accounts. I will close this sermon, as I intend to preach another before I present the subject I more particularly wish to speak upon. My next servion will be to both Saint and sinner. One thing lass remained a mystery in this kingdom up to this day. It is in regard to the character of the well-beloved Son of Israel have conflicting views. One Israel have the Lord have lived in His organized being the Auchard one God, minister to execute His will immensity; being called to govern by His influence and power; but He son a personage in their order the herbs of the Lord, and issues forth from Himself, and may properly be called to govern by His influence and power; but He son a personage the Son of the Virgin Mary conceived the child seus Christ are. The question has been, and is often, asked, who it was that begat the Son of the Virgin Mary conceived the child seus Christ are. The question has been, and is often, asked, who it was that begat the Son of the Virgin Mary conceived the child seus Christ are. The question has he had a presson of Jesus Christ! The infidel fraternity teach that to their disciples. I will tell you how it is. Our later the sone and account of the present marriage discipline acknowledge and infinite wind the present marriage discipline acknowledge by Christendom be correct, then Christians must believe that God is the father of an illegitimate son, in th

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on in succession. I could tell you much more about this; but were I to tell you the whole truth, blasphemy would be nothing to it, in the estimation of the superstitious and overrighteous of mankind. However, I have told you the truth as far as I have gone. I have heard men preach upon the divinity of Christ, and exhaust all the wisdom they possessed. All Scripturalists, and approved theologians who were considered exemplary for piety and education, have undertaken to expound on this subject in every age of the Christian era; and after they have done all, they are obliged to conclude by exclaiming "great is the mystery of godliness." and tell nothing.

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, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Again, they will try to tell how the divinity of Jesus is joined to his humanity, and exhaust all their mental faculties, and wind up with this profound language, as describing the soul of man, "it is an immaterial substance!" What a learned idea! Jesus our elder brother, was begotten in the Riesh 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 treet them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damination.

Lhave given you a few leading them and the provential or the property of the chirch, who have hear to bloom the court of the property of the chirch, who have hear to bloom the court of the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch, who sent \$100 back to the property of the chirch of the pr

1 Church News, October, 1976. Note the use of the word "alleged." As anyone can see, it really was taught.

BY

JOD p319

1856

One of the most revealing sermons that Brigham Young preached, was delivered on April, 9, 1852. This is the discourse; of which you see two pages; on the previous page of this tract. In Mark E. Petersen's book,* Adam, Who Is He?, the claim is made that Charles C. Rich heard Brigham say something different in a key portion of the sermon, than is recorded in the Journal of Discourses. In making this claim, however, Mark E. Petersen has run afoul of L.D.S. Church Historian, Leonard J. Arrington. The latter has written the book, Charles C. Rich, Mormon General and Western Frontiersman, B.Y.U. Press. He states that Rich left San Bernardino, California on March 24, 1852, for Salt Lake Valley. He later returned to San Bernardino, making the trip in 22 days, "... "the quickest trip on record."" (p. 173). If this is true, it would have been impossible for Charles C. Rich to have

arrived in Salt Lake City in time to hear Brigham's sermon. Also, why was the portion of the sermon, that is in question, reprinted from the Journal of Discourses, without change of meaning, in the Millennial Star, Vol. 15, pps. 769,770; some 11/2 years after the sermon?

What did Brigham mean, when he declared that Adam "is our FATHER and our GOD, and the only God with whom WE have to do."? The very fact he said it is bad enough, and the literal meaning makes Brigham a false prophet. What if it could be shown that he later taught that Adam is the Father of our spirits? Would you agree that he believed Adam is our Heavenly Father? Doesn't Sermon † D and that on the back page make

DISINCLINATION OF MEN TO LEARN, ETC.

TESTIMONY OF THE SPIRIT, ETC.

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if it is only to the extent of a hair's up his City, when they had travelled breadth. And if he cannot keep a person this side the Gospel line, he will walk with that individual on the not as far advanced in the things of

line and strive to push him over.

That is so invariably the case that That is so invariantly the case that people need eyes to see, and understanding to know how to discriminate between the things of God and the things that are not of Him. Will this people learn? I am happy and joyful, I am thankful, and can say of joyful, I am thankful, and can say of a truth, brethren and sisters, that the manifestations of goodness from this people are not to be compared, in my opinion, with those from any other people upon the face of the whole earth since the days of Enoch.

Old Israel, in all their travels, wanderings expresses powers and keys of

Old Israel, in all their travels, wanderings, exercises, powers, and keys of the Priesthood, never came night enough to the path this people have walked in to see them in their obedience that was and is required by the Gospel. Yet there are thousands of weaknesses and overtacts in some of this people, which render us more or less obnexious to each other.

Still, you may search all the history extant of the children of Israel, or that of any people that ever lived on the face of the earth since the days of Enoch, and I very much doubt, taking that people with their traditions, and comparing them with this mixed multitude from the different nations now

havaneed in the things of the kingdom of God.

Make your own comparisons between the two people, think of the traditions of the two. How many nations were there in the days of Enoch? The very men who were associated with him had been with Adam; they knew him and his children, and had the privilege of talking with God. Just think of it.

Just think of it.

Though we have it in history that our father Adam was made of the dust of this earth, and that he knew nothing about his God previous to being made here, yet it is not so; and when we learn the truth we shall see and understand that he helped to make this world, and was the chief manager

this world, and was the chief manager in that operation.

He was the person who brought the animals and the seeds from other planets to this world, and brought a wife with him and stayed here. You may read and believe what you please as to what is found written in the Bible. Adam was made from the dust of an earth, but not from the dust of this earth. He was made as you and I are made, and no person was ever made upon any other prinwas ever made upon any other prin-

comparing them with this mixed multitude from the different nations now in the world with our traditions, whether you would find a people from the days of Emoch until now that could favorably compare with this people in their willingness to obey the Gospel, and to go all lengths to build up the kingdom of God.

I have said a great many times, and repeat it now, and whether I am mistaken or not I will leave for the future to determine, and though, as I do, Joseph when living reproved the people, that I believe with all my heart that the people who gathered around Emoch, and lived with him and built and works and the comparison of the control of th

when he comes here again. And that is not all; for you have or should have the candle of the Lord continually the canne of the Lora community burning within you. Then I ask you if you still need revelation? You will say, "Yes, just as much as we need a candle to enable us to see to walk in our streets at noonday." A person that is filled with the Spirit knows just as much as he has occasion to know; for the Spirit of our Ged is a Spirit of revelation.

The time has arrived when we have either to be trodden under foot by our enemies and die, or to defend our-selves and our rights; and which will selves and our rights; and which will it be? Every man and women feel their hearts fail them when they think of submitting to the oppression and unlawful abominations practised by our enemies, and sought by them to be introduced into our society; and we will not submit to such wicked and unlawful treatment, whether it comes from United States or united hell for

are in the mountains; but your prayers cannot prevail if there is disunion among you.

The teachings given us from Sabbath to Sabbath must be learned and lived before we can enjoy the kingdom of God in its fulness.

I am thankful that I do not hear, of late, since the Spirit has been generally diffused among the people, "O Lord, give revelation through brother Brigham." I wish to fulfil what we have received before I ask formore. I said to brother Joseph, the spring before he was killed, "You are laying out work for twenty years." He replied, "You have as yet scarcely began to work; but I will set you enough to last you during your lives, for I am going to rest." All I can do or ask now is to do the work, so that it will be right and acceptable to him when he comes here again. And that is not sell; for you have or should have although they profess to believe in him, they do not realize that he is about to hold a controversy with them

about to hold a controversy with them for their iniquity.

Their belief reminds me that brother Joseph B. Nobles once told a Methodist priest, after hearing him describe his god, that the god they worshipped was the "Mormons'" Devil—a being without a body, whereas our God has a body, parts, and passions. The Devil was cursed and sent down from heaven. He has no body of his own; therefore he is constantly of his own: therefore he is constantly endeavouring to obtain possession of the tabernacles belonging to others. Some have grumbled because I be-lieve our God to be so near to us as Father Adam. There are many who know that doctrine to be true. Where know that doctrine to be true. Where was Michael in the creation of this earth? Did he have a mission to the earth? He did. Where was he? In the Grand Council, and performed the introduced into our society; and we will not submit to such wicked and mlawful treatment, whether it comes from United States or united hell, for the terms are synonymous as the Government is now conducted. I tell you and I tell our enemies that we are here, and we intend to stay you will find Peter; and after you pass him, you will find Peter; and after you pass

* 1st Edition.

that a fair conclusion? In the sermon shown on the first page, we see that the Father who has begotten Jesus through Mary, is "the first of the human family." (J.O.D., Vol. 1, p. 50). On the 51st page, he is identified as "our Father in Heaven." (Adam had "his Father in heaven" (p. 50).

Sermon A of page 2, declares that our father Adam wasn't made from the dust of this earth. Joseph Fielding Smith taught that Adam was made from the dust of this earth (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 90). Clearly, Brigham taught that Adam had already attained to exaltation, before he came to this earth! In the first page sermon (p. 50), Adam is said to have come into the garden of Eden with a celestial body, with one of his wives, Eve. Brigham makes the same claim in the last sermon shown on this paper; even plainly stating that Adam had already received his

exaltation (i.e., had become a God). Although there is an "Eloheim" over Adam (see the last page), Adam would have to be an "Eloheim" for this earth according to the current L.D.S. definition of Elohim (that is, that he is the Father of our spirits). Not only do we have the evidence of Sermon †D (see †C also) and the portions on the back page, but unpublished sermons exist such as a February 19, 1854 address ("... and the Father of our spirits, and he is the framer of the body, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who is he? He is Father Adam"). (This writer has a church archives Call. No. of Ms E 219#81, p. 7, for this sermon.) For further references, write to address on back page.

earth like this—know how to people faithful, to be made perfect with those that earth, how to redeem it, how to that earth, how to redeem it, how to sanctify it, and how to glorify it, with those who live upon it who hearken

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those who live upon it who hearven to our counsels.

The Father and the Son have at-tained to this point already; I am on the way, and so are you, and every faithful servant of God.

faithful servant of God.

One of the greatest queries on the minds of the Saints is to understand the nature, the principle of the foundation of our existence. To say nothing about what has been, if you will follow out that which is before you, you can learn all about it. I have a notion to tell you, though I have not time to say much about it now. a notion to tell you, though I have not time to say much about it now. I will, however, just tell to you the simple story relating to the exaltation of man in the celestial kingdom of God. We will take Joseph for in-stance: he is faithful to his calling— hee filled his mission to this earth and stance: he is faithful to his calling—has filled his mission to this earth, and sealed his testimony with his blood; he has done the work his Father gave him to do, and will scon come to the resurrection. His spirit is waiting for the resurrection of the body, which will scon be. But has he the power to resurrect that body? He has not. Who has this power? Those that have already passed through the resurrection—who have been resurrected in their time and season by some person else, and have been appointed to that cles, and have been appointed to that authority just as you Elders have with regard to your authority to saptise. You have not the power to baptise yourselves, neither have you power to

resurrect yourselves; and you could not legally baptise a second person for the remission of sins until some perthe remission of sins until some person first hoptised you and ordained you to this authority. So with those that hold the keys of the resurrection to resurrect the Saints. Joseph will come up in his turn, receive his body again, and continue his mission in the ternal worlds until he carries it out to perfection, with all the rest of the

who have lived to the and those who shall live after; and when the work is finished, and it is offered to the Father, then they will be crowned and receive keys and powers by which they will be capable of organizing worlds. What will they organize first? worlds. What will they organize first?
Were I to tell you, I should certainly
spoil all the baby resurrection that
Elder Hyde and others ever preached,
as sure as the world.

as sure as the world.

After men have got their exaltations and their crowns—have become Gods, even the sons of God—are made Kings of kings and Lords of lords, they have the power then of propagating their species in spirit; and that is the first of their operations with regard to organizing a world. Power is then given to them to organize the eleorganizing a world. Fower is then
given to them to organize the elements, and then commence the organization of tabernacles. How can
they do it? Have they to go to that
earth? Yes, an Adam will have to
go there, and he cannot do without
Eve; he must have Eve to commence
the work of generation, and they will
go into the garden, and continue to go into the garden, and continue to cat and drink of the fruits of the cor-roreal world, until this grosser matter is diffused sufficiently through their celestial bodies to enable them, according to the established laws, to produce mortal tubernacles for their

spiritual children.

This is a key for you. The faithful will become Gods, even the sons of God; but this does not overthrow the tide that we have a father. Adam is my father; (this I will explain to you at some future time;) but it does not prove that he is not my father, if I become a God; it does not prove that

birth of that man. He was fore- this world is to exalt the intelligencies ordained in eternity to preside over this last dispensation, as much so as Pharaoh was fore ordained to be a wicked man, or as was Jesus to be the Saviour of the world because he was

the oldest son in the family.

Abraham was ordained to be the father of the faithful,—that is, he was ordained to come forth at a certain period; and when he had proved him-self faithful to his God, and would re-sist the worship of idols, and trample them under his feet in the presence of their king, and set up the worship of the true God, he obtained the appellation of "father of the faithful." "For whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." He knew, millions of years before this world was framed, that Pharaoh would be a wicked man. He saw—he under-stood; his work was before him, and stood; his work was before him, and be could see it from the beginning to the end. And so scrutinizing, pene-trating, and expanded are his visions and knowledge, that not even a hair of our head can fall to the ground unof our nead can iail to the ground un-noticed by him. He foreknew what Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, would do. Joseph was foreordained to be the temporal saviour of his father's house, and the seed of Joseph are house, and the seed of Joseph are ordained to be the spiritual and temporal saviours of all the house of Israel in the latter days. Joseph's seed has mixed itself with all the seed of man upon the face of the whole earth. The great majority of those who are now before me are the descendants of that Joseph who were add dants of that Joseph who was sold. dants of that Joseph who was soin.

Joseph Smith, junior, was forcordained to come through the loins of Abraham,
Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and so on down
through the Prophets and Apostles;
and thus he came forth in the last days to be a minister of salvation, and to held the keys of the last dispensa-tion of the fulness of times.

this world is to exalt the intelligencies that are placed upon it, that they may live, endure, and increase for ever and ever. We are not here to quarrel and contend about the things of this world, but we are here to subdue and beautify it. Let every man and woman worship their God with all their heart. Let them pay their devotions and sacrifices to him, the Supreme, and the Author of to him, the Supreme, and the Author of their existence. Do all the good you can to your fellow-creatures. You are flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. God has created of one blood all the nations and kingdoms of men that dwell upon all the face of the earth: black, white, copper-coloured, or whatever their colour, customs, or or winkever their colour, customs, or religion, they have all sprung from the same origin; the blood of all is from the same element. Adam and Eve are the parents of all pertaining to the flesh, and I would not say that they are not also the parents of our

You see some classes of the human You see some classes of the human family that are black, uncouth, uncomely, disagreeable and low in their habits, wild, and seemingly deprived of nearly all the blessings of the intelligence that is generally bestowed upon mankind. The first man that committed the odious crime of killing one of his brethren will be cursed the one of his brethren will be cursed the longest of any one of the children of Adam. Cain slew his brother. Cain might have been killed, and that would might have been killed, and that would have put a termination to that line of human beings. This was not to be, and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin. Trace mankind down to after the flood, and then another curse is pro-nounced upon the same race—that they should be the "servant of servants;" and they will be, until that curse is rethus he came forth in the least agreed; and the Abolitionists cannot be define the design of the last dispensation and they will be designed to be a minister of salvation, and held the keys of the last dispensation of the fulness of times.

The whole object of the creation of That curse will remain upon them,

JOD p290 1859

The "grand plan," as Brigham saw it, was that those who attained to exaltation, would first create their species in spirit (i.e., have spirit-children); then organize an earth; then become an Adam (or an Eve) for that earth. They would go into "the garden" (every earth would apparently have a Garden of Eden), and "eat and drink of the fruits of the corporeal world," until their celestial bodies became mortal. THEN they could produce mortal bodies for the spirit-children they had ALREADY created BEFORE they came to that earth! DOES THIS SOUND FARFETCHED? Look at Sermon C. There it is in a nutshell; the "grand plan," so to speak. Only part of the evidence is shown here.

THE DESERET NEWS, June 18th, 1873

DISCOURSE

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG, delivered in the New Tabornacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, June 8th, 1873.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

I will read the text that my brother Joseph has been talking about

Christ, the order of heavenly things, the laws by which angels exist, by which the worlds were created and are held in existence, &c. How pleased we would be to place these things before the people if they would receive them! How much upbelief exists in the minds if they would receive them! 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 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 wo-Eve, because she was the first woman upon 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 who ever will come upon the earth. I have been found fault with by the ministers of religion because I have said that they were ignorant. But I could not find any man on the 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. Is it a great mystery, that the earth exists? Is it a great mystery, that the world can not solve, that man is on the earth? Yes, it is; but to whom? To the ignorant—those who know nothing about it. It is no mystery to those who understand. Is it a mystery to the Christian world that Jesus is the Son of God, and still the son of man? Yes, it is, it is hidden from of man? Yes it is, it is hidden from

Joseph Fielding Smith has commented on the so-called "Adam-God Theory" (Doctrines of Salvation, compiled by Bruce R. Mc-Conkie, Vol. 1). He claims, "There are Gods above Adam, even the Father and the Son." (p. 97). Look at Sermon B. To quote from Sermon B, as it continues on p. 332: "the Apostles and many of the Prophets, you will find Abraham, and he will say, "I have the keys, and except you do thus and so, you cannot pass;" and after a while you come to Jesus; and when you at length meet Father Adam, how strange it will appear to your present notions. ... then we shall be very glad to see the white locks of Father Adam." Isn't Brigham showing here; "Father Adam" OVER Jesus, and not UNDER Him? (Brig-

ham even applies John 17:3!).

CAN YOU SEE IT? By any reasonable interpretation of the Bible, Brigham Young must be classified as a FALSE prophet. Adam isn't our God, and he NEVER will be (Isaiah 43:10, cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-5). Study and pray about the significance of this.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET GOD? Are your sins really forgiven? Do you know God, or just know about Him? Have you got religion, but not salvation? If you're not sure, why not invite Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior, right now? (John 1:12).

Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose the third day (I Corinthians 15:3,4). Trust in Him alone for forgiveness. (John 3:16, 5:24, 6:28.29)

If you have been helped by this paper, or have questions, please write to: Wally Tope, P. O. Box 1100, La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011

can do all things at his pleasure, is not capable of sending forth his own children, and forming this fish for his own offspring? Where is the mystery in this? Wa 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 Eloheim, "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. Philosophers, again, in talking of the development of the products of the earth, for instance, in the vegetable kingdom, say the little fibres grew first, then the larger vegetation. When this preparatory stage was completed then came the various orders of the animal creation; and finally min appeared. No matter whether these notions are true or not, they are more or less speculative. Adam came here and got it up in a shape that would suit him for commence business. What is the great mystery about it? None, that I have seen. The mystery in this, as with miracles, or anything else, is only to those who are ignorunt. Father Adam came here, and then they brought his wife. "Well," saysone, "Why was Adam called Adam"? He was the first man on the earth, and its framer and maker. he, with the help of his brethron, 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 tolts 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 Hesh, that their spirits may have a Rouse, at a better and where is the mystery?