

14 - Abraham 3 Continued – Is Satan Really My Brother?

A few years ago when Mitt Romney was running for President, I had been working with Glen Beck for a little while and visited him in his office and broadcasting studio in Dallas. The conversation leaned toward the feelings among the “born again” Christian community in the Bible Belt. Even though Romney may have been the best candidate at the time in their minds, many said they could not vote for him because he was a Mormon. The only reason they gave for not voting for him was their claim that Mormons believe in a different God or Christ than they do. The main supporting argument for this claim is their widespread belief that *we* believe Satan was a brother to Christ, an unacceptable viewpoint to them.

We have read the scriptures that explain what it takes to become a son of God, and we have learned from Joseph and scripture that spirits are eternal – they are not created or made. So now we come to the part in our discussion about Satan.

The War / Conflict / Contention in Heaven

Moses 4:1-3

1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is *the same which was from the beginning [the pre-existence]*, and he came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor. [*He wants to make sure we're all going to be saved*]

2 But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

3 Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that *I should give unto him mine own power*; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

That beginning is talking about those spirits who were prepared to come to this earth. Every world has its own Council in Heaven. All have to be instructed in the laws that will govern that earth. We understood what those laws were and our relationship to that environment. Our understanding of these things is crucial as we learn to work out our own salvation.

Satan was cast out because he not only wanted to take away our agency, he also wanted God's glory, as he declared, “Surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.” (See pages 114-117 for our earlier discussion on the ancient texts that describe the conflict between Adam and Satan.)

D&C 29:36-37

36 And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil—for, behold, **the devil was before Adam**, for he rebelled against me, saying, Give me thine honor, which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency;

37 And they were thrust down, and thus came the devil and his angels;

When it says, “the devil was before Adam,” that tells us that he existed and was prepared early on for the earth which we now inhabit. Every earth has its own Council in Heaven, and every other earth could be different from our earth.

D&C 76:24-27

24 That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof [*of these worlds*] are begotten sons and daughters unto God.

25 And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the Only Begotten Son whom the Father loved and who was in the bosom of the Father, was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son,

26 And was called Perdition, for the heavens wept over him—he was Lucifer, a son of the morning.

27 And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen, even a son of the morning!

Satan was one in authority in the presence of God; he was prepared early on.

Who is going to be the Leader?

In these next verses, The Lord is instructing Abraham in the distinctions between the various spirits as it relates to who is going to be chosen as His leaders, and in particular, who is to be the first leader on this newly created world.

Abraham 3:18-19

18 Howbeit that he made the greater star; as, also, if there be two spirits, and one shall be more intelligent than the other, yet these two spirits, notwithstanding one is more intelligent than the other, have no beginning; they existed before, they shall have no end, they shall exist after, for they are gnolaum, or eternal.

19 And the Lord said unto me: These two facts do exist, that there are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other; there shall be another more intelligent than they; I am the Lord thy God, I am more intelligent than they all.

Some spirits had a greater propensity to seek for light and truth than others, yet God is more “intelligent” than they all. This is how Christ qualified as a God *before* He even received a physical body – He sought for, received, and was obedient to a **fulness** of light and truth before He got a body. Christ was in the beginning, as also the spirit of man (D&C 93:29) and He (Christ) was the first of all the spirits to become a Son of God by obedience to light and truth, making Him the “Firstborn” unto God - the first worthy for Exaltation, even before birth. And because of the Father’s foreknowledge, He knew that Christ would not sin in mortality, thus making him worthy in every way to be the Savior of all spirits. Because of the Atonement, all spirits can become “begotten” sons and daughters *unto* God (D&C 76:24; 93:22).

Christ continues his instruction to Abraham:

21 I dwell in the midst of them all; I now, therefore, have come down unto thee to declare unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; **I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen.**

22 Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; *[Abraham comments on what God is telling him.]*

This organization of intelligences does not mean creation; rather, this is an organization of leaders. Look at the context of the passage. It is about choosing the priesthood leaders that will have the power and authority to administer the Gospel of Salvation to mankind.

23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: **These** I will make my rulers *[those who had a greater propensity than others]*; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: **Abraham, thou art one of them;** thou wast chosen before thou wast born. *[Abraham was told he would be one of the rulers on this newly created earth.]*

24 And there stood one among them that was “like unto God,” and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth **whereon these may dwell;**

That phrase in Hebrew, “like unto God,” is *mi-cha-el*. He is “like unto God” because he is created in the image of God (Moses 6:9). This scripture is often misunderstood.

25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; *[doing all things is developing that character we have been talking about.]*

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 *[do]* keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.

Here we see that those who are valiant in the pre-earth life can receive their second estate (come to Earth for a body), and if they are valiant in their second estate they will receive glory added upon their heads forever and ever. A type of progression is taking place, but it hinges on being valiant enough in the pre-earth life to come to this earth life.

Now that the earth is created, and the spirits have been organized into groups (those who have been more valiant, and those who have been less valiant), the earthly leaders need to be chosen, and the Lord then asks:

27 And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man *[again, Mi-cha-el]*: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first.

28 And the second was angry, and **kept not his first estate**; and, at that day, many followed after him.

Now, back in Moses 4:1-2, who comes with the plan first, according to that narrative? That's right, it is Lucifer, who became Satan. Why is the order reversed here in Abraham? A: It is not the same event!

Who is going to be the first man? One *like unto God* says, "Here am I, send me. And another answered and said, Here am I, send me. And the Lord said, I will send the first." This verse in Abr 3 is talking about who will be the first leader on this earth, not who is going to be the redeemer of mankind. Who was that first man? Adam – who was Michael, or in the Hebrew, *Mi-cha-el*, which means "*like unto God*," as stated in verse 24.

In our October class we read through several of the ancient texts that discussed the conflict between Adam and Satan. In *The Gospel of Bartholomew*, Satan said he knew he could not take the place of Christ, for Christ had already been chosen from the very beginning. What Satan wanted to do was do away with *the necessity* of Christ, and the best way for him to do that is to become the first man – at least that is what he thinks. We see that in Moses 4:1 when he declares that he will be God's son and not one soul shall be lost.

In Abraham 3 the context is leadership: Here are spirits, some are more intelligent than others, and these are the noble and great ones who will be made rulers. An earth is going to be created, and the Lord wants to know, "Who shall [He] send?" One "like unto the Son of Man" says, "Here am I, send me." And another said, "Send me."

Moses 4: 1	Abr 3: 27-28
1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.	27 And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first. 28 And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate ; and, at that day, many followed after him. <i>[These verses are talking about Michael and Lucifer, Lucifer being the one who kept not his first estate. Moses 4:1 is a different event altogether.]</i>

Comment: Satan was not upset at Christ's position of authority, but he was upset that Adam was chosen to become the first man for this earth?

Yes. That is correct. The conflict or war in heaven had to do with Satan wanting to do away with the necessity of Christ and His atonement. He knew that he could not take the place of Christ (as Christ was the FIRSTBORN), but he wanted to do away with the necessity of Christ. It was not a battle between Christ and Satan; rather it was a battle between having agency and not having agency; atonement or no atonement; and Glory, whether it be God's or whether it be Satan's. Satan was also resentful that he was not chosen to be the first man to begin the whole thing.

Joseph taught:

The contention in heaven was—Jesus said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and the devil said he could save them all, and laid his plans before the grand council, who gave their vote in favor of Jesus Christ. So the devil rose up in rebellion against God, and was cast down, with all who put up their heads for him. (TPJS p 357)

Satan was just one of the spirits who would be coming to this earth like the rest of us. He and that third part that followed him were part of that same Council in Heaven. As we read in Abraham (Abr 3:26), those who “keep their first estate shall be added upon.” This scripture makes it plain that Satan never has been, or ever will be, a brother to Christ—or your brother either! Lucifer did not keep his first estate; thus, he can never become a son of God, which means he can never become a joint-heir with Christ.

Question: Please explain further what it means when it says, “and [he] kept not his first estate”? Did he turn away from truth?

He turned away from the Plan of Salvation. Christ said, “Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.” It was God's plan, and Christ said He was willing to carry out God's plan. Satan proposed another plan. It's not wrong to have another plan, but when the priesthood leader says, “OK, this is what we're going to do,” it is wrong to then say, “I'm not going to do that!” That is considered rebellion. Satan was not cast out for having a different plan; he was cast out for rebellion. He is cast out for not accepting the decision.

When you look at those ancient texts, the same story is told in all of them. When God formed Adam's body from the dust of the earth and placed Adam's spirit into it, God then commanded every order of angels to pay honor and recognize Adam as the father of their future, physical bodies. All of them came except Satan and those who followed him. He reasoned that he need not recognize a being younger than him; he postured that he ought to have been chosen to become the first patriarch on the earth rather than Adam. He maintained he would not accept Adam as the patriarch; thus he was then cast out for rebellion. “...and [he] was angry, and **kept not his first estate**; and, at that day, many followed after him.”

When Lucifer said, “Send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it,” he is telling God that he wanted to hold all the keys of authority on the earth. God replied, “No, I will send one like unto God (Michael / Adam) for he is more righteous than you.” In all those ancient texts, we see that Lucifer rebels against God's choice. He refuses to participate in God's plan – if Michael is chosen instead of him, he does not want to have any part of it!

The Doctrinal Concept: A Spirit's Progression

For a spirit to reach the second estate it must also have kept its first estate, which demonstrates valiancy in seeking for and being obedient to light and truth. All of us here obviously kept that first estate. The question is: Now that we are in the second estate, are we going to be valiant in the testimony of Christ here? In order to become a son or daughter of God, a spirit must not only keep the first estate, it must also enter into the second estate. Furthermore, it must receive Christ

and accept His Gospel. (We went through all those scriptures at the beginning of our first session today.) Our spirits were not created or made, neither indeed can be (D&C 93:29). Our spirits have always existed. Given this background, was Satan *ever* a son of God?

We were in the beginning with the Father; that which is Spirit, even the Spirit of truth; our spirits were not created or made, neither indeed can be; (D&C 93:23, 29)

...they have no beginning, they existed before, they will have no end. (Abr 3:18)

These are the same concepts that Joseph taught:

– the immortal spirit. Where did it come from? All learned men and doctors of divinity say that God created it in the beginning; but it is not so: the very idea lessens man in my estimation. I do not believe the doctrine; I know better. Hear it, all ye ends of the world; for God has told me so; (TPJS p 352)

Is it logical to say that the intelligence of spirits is immortal, and yet that it had a beginning? The intelligence of spirits had no beginning, neither will it have an end. That is good logic. That which has a beginning may have an end. There never was a time when there were not spirits; (TPJS p 353)

So with the spirit of man. As the Lord liveth, if it had a beginning, it will have an end. ... God never had the power to create the spirit of man at all. Intelligence is eternal and exists upon a self-existent principle. It is a spirit from age to age, and there is no creation about it. (TPJS p 354)

To recap, according to scripture Satan *is not* a brother of Christ; he never has been, nor can be. He was a spirit prepared to come to this earth just like the rest of us, and he had the same opportunity to accept and keep his first estate. He rejected that privilege by choice and open rebellion against the Plan of Salvation, and in so doing, lost the possibility of ever becoming a son of God, along with the right to become an heir and joint-heir with Jesus Christ. Since “*spirits were not created or made, neither indeed can be,*” he was never a brother to Christ or to any of us. **This is what the scriptures teach.**

The True Nature of God

Question: But hasn't God asked that we call him, Father?

God is two people. When we become exalted, men don't go off to celestial Priesthood meetings to learn how to create and destroy worlds, nor do women go off to celestial Relief Society to create recipes that turn pinto beans into fudge. (*much laughter*)

In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; (D&C 131:1-2)

The two become God. The two are God. That's why when God created man, the scripture says: “**God** created man in his *own image*, in the **image of God** created he him; male and female created he **them**” (Gen 1:27). God is two people—it's just that simple. God—that celestial couple, that

deity—has decided to be called “Father.” There is no better way to convey the idea to mortals who are organized in families. There is no better way to convey the concept that God is a loving, kind, protective, providing, and caring Father. A father embraces all those things. ‘Mother’ somewhat conveys that concept, but does not quite express the level of protection and the provision that the term ‘father’ does. So God, composed of two people, decided to be called “Father.” Does that make sense?

Comment: That makes sense to me. It's like a married couple who are one in purpose, but they are two.

Yes, in that context, you are Parent! In the celestial context, you – man and wife – become Eloheim. *El* is the word for God, and *heim* is the plural ending of the word. (That's in the next part of Abraham when we get to it.) We sometimes have this idea that men go off to create and destroy worlds while the women remain behind in an eternal nursery raising billions and billions of spirit children. We have that idea, but that is not the case. The two are actually God. **They** are Eloheim. The new and everlasting covenant of marriage is the order of the patriarchal priesthood. The matriarch holds the same priesthood as does the patriarch.

The **Priesthood** was first given to Adam; he obtained the First Presidency, and held the keys of it from generation to generation. He obtained **it** in the Creation, before the world was formed, as in Genesis 1:26, 27, 28. He had **dominion** given him over every living creature... and to him was given **the dominion**. (TPJS p 157)

This is the same priesthood that Adam and Eve were blessed with *before* the fall (Gen. 1:28).⁵² It is the same priesthood that they had after the fall, with divided responsibilities. This “order of the priesthood” is the order of heaven and inherent in the couple who have been sealed together, with the same commission in life as our first parents were given in the Garden of Eden. The main responsibility of this patriarchal priesthood, *which the married couple jointly holds*, is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of their children, by instruction and ordinance. (See *The Threshing Floor of Faith*, BH Porter, 1st Edition, p 372)

52 **The Prophet Joseph Smith remarked in a marriage ceremony that** —marriage was an institution of heaven instituted in the Garden of Eden. Following the ceremony, he pronounced them Husband and Wife and — in the name of God blessed them with the blessings that the Lord conferred upon Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden in Gen. 1:28 (*The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, Compiled and Edited by Dean C. Jesse, (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1984), pp. 92, 132)

In exaltation (as explained in the Temple), men become Kings and Priests, and women become Queens and Priestesses, unto God. “Priestess” connotes priesthood.

A world has been created upon which we, as spirits, may progress and become His sons and daughters in reality. A Plan of Salvation has been set in motion for us and an opportunity given that allows us to become one with Christ, the first Son of God, and to become a joint-heir and to receive all that the Father hath (D&C 84:38). We can become His sons and daughters once we develop the same character as God and Christ and become worthy to be admitted into His family. The family that can be together forever is not my family here—it's God's *exalted* family.

God's Exalted Family

Let's talk about "sealing" for a minute. Most of you have heard this explanation.

Joseph never taught that children are sealed "to" their parents. In other words, I do not own my offspring on the other side. When I get to other side, I will be what I was before: a brother to the sons and daughters that I had here. I would hope that they would be exalted, the same way that I hope to be exalted, with our respective spouses. I would hope that my children and I can become gods and sons of Gods. Joseph taught that children are sealed "through" their parents, as everyone needs to be sealed to God. It is God's eternal family that we become members of, as His sons and daughters, becoming joint heirs with Jesus Christ. I am sealed to God through my parents, and they are sealed to God through their parents, and so on, until they are sealed to Adam, who is sealed to God. So, I am sealed to God through my parents. I do not own my kids on the other side.

What has been created in the minds of just about everybody in the Church is the notion that there will be this eternal, endless Family Home Evening. Everyone knows that a Family Home Evening is like a Church basketball game—a fight that begins and ends with prayer! An eternal Family Home Evening would be some people's definition of Purgatory. But we put it in those terms to make our kids feel comfortable, as well as ourselves. There is no better way to understand it for those just learning the Gospel. But the family that can be together forever is God's exalted family—not my exalted family! You have to begin to ask questions like: When my daughter is sealed to somebody else, whose eternal family home evening is she going to attend? What about my son and his wife? What about me and my wife? Do we attend the eternal family home evening of her parents or mine? And so on.

Children are not required for exaltation, but a spouse is. Adam fell because, he said, "The woman Thou gavest me and commandest that she should remain with me, she did give me of the fruit of the tree and I did eat (Moses 4:18).

Adam fell, not to have kids, but because he was commanded to remain with Eve. The Fall was an issue of eternal marriage, not an issue of children. An eternal marriage is required for exaltation, children are not.

In the **D&C 49:15-16** we read:

... for marriage is ordained of God unto man. Wherefore it is lawful that he should have one wife, and they twain shall be one flesh, and all this that the earth might answer the end of its creation.

In D&C 76:58, speaking of those in the Celestial Kingdom it says, "Wherefore it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God." If we become a joint-heir with Jesus, it is all about equality. Christ said, "And he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; And he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom; therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him" (D&C 84:37-38). This is what it means to be a joint-heir with Christ. And if He is a Son of God, and we become joint-heirs, then that means we also have become sons and daughters of God.

Comment: *Referring to that equality, at the veil, the sisters are given the exact same promises as the men.*

That is exactly right. This comes back to that statement of Joseph Smith when he performed that first marriage:

The Prophet Joseph Smith remarked in a marriage ceremony that marriage was an institution of heaven instituted in the Garden of Eden. Following the ceremony, he pronounced them Husband and Wife and — in the name of God blessed them with the blessings that the Lord conferred upon Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden in Gen. 1:28, and he said that dominion given to Adam and Eve was the Priesthood.

Adam and Eve jointly held the patriarchal priesthood before the fall, and their priesthood duties and responsibilities were divided after the fall. You can't have a patriarch without a matriarch. The matriarchal duties in the patriarchal priesthood are just as important as the patriarchal responsibilities. They are together; they are two. God is two people.