

On the Debate over the Identity of the Father and the Son

Prepared by
Elder Dwight Burford,
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Concerning the ... debate over whether or not the Father and Son are one or separate beings: I have heard this subject debated many times, but it is simply not a debatable issue for anyone who has read and truly believes in the testimony of Jesus Christ as found in the Book of Mormon!

How can I say such a thing? One of the very reasons the Book of Mormon was brought forth was “the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, **the Eternal God**” (the TITLE PAGE; see also II Nephi 11:78,79). Also consider the fact that Jesus specifically commanded us to study the prophecies of Isaiah and that Isaiah prophesied there is no Savior other than our God Himself (cf. Isaiah 43:3,11, 44:6, 45:5-15,22, 46:9-13, 47:4, 48:16,17 & 49:26, with III Nephi 10:27)?

The witness that Jesus Christ is the Eternal God is found throughout the pages of this plainly written record. For example, the brother of Jared was told by Jesus Christ that He is both the Father and the Son (Ether 1:77; see also Ether 1:102-113). Therefore, anyone who says that they believe the Book of Mormon to be true, and yet argue that Jesus is not the Father and the Son are not only speaking contrary to the faith of the brother of Jared, but more importantly, they are speaking contrary to the word of the Lord. And it would be good for them to think again about this in light of the promise given in Ether 1:98-113.

Another powerful witness of the true nature of our Savior comes from the time when Jesus Christ appeared to the more righteous of His covenant people in America. Upon coming among them, He said:

*Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands, and in my feet, **that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.** (III Nephi 5:14)*

With so plain a witness as this, why would anyone debate whether or not Jesus Christ is, in fact, *the God of Israel* and *the God of the whole earth*? Why indeed, when there are many more references like this one found throughout the Book of Mormon? Perhaps the answer is as simple as this: this is not an understanding which we are to come by intellectually based upon our scholarship or logical reasoning, i.e. based upon our carnal minds (cf. I Corinthians 2:9-16). Rather, it is an understanding which must be revealed to us by the Son through the quickening power of the Holy Spirit of prophecy:

*All things are delivered to me of my Father; **and no man knoweth that the Son is the Father, and the Father is the Son, but him to whom the Son will reveal it.** (Luke 10:23)*

Why hasn't Jesus revealed this truth – that *the Father is the Son and the Son is the Father* – to all His people, or should I say to all who claim to be members of His body (reflecting upon D&C 3:16 with 63:1,2)? For one thing, it is given to some to know that Jesus is the Christ, while to others it is given to believe upon their testimony (cf. Moroni 10:8-21). But could it also possibly be that there have been so many individuals who have been received by the church through baptism (cf. Alma 3:27-29 with D&C 17:7) who have not as yet come to know who their Savior really is, that it is God Himself who came down to redeem them from their sins (II Nephi 6:10, Mosiah 1:92-115 & 8:13 & Mormon 4:70-83)?

In the end, as our Lord has said, this matter lies with Him as our Savior. But there are some important implications we must consider when we hear of those who argue contrary to the plain and precious witness of the word of God.

To begin with, we must understand that this simply is not a side issue. We must have a clear understanding of who we believe our Savior to be. Is Jesus just a man or some prophet as some religions teach? Or is Jesus simply Lucifer's (Satan's) brother as the Mormons and Masons believe?

No! Jesus Christ is none other than *the Lord God Omnipotent, the God above all* (Mosiah 3:21). And anyone who does not accept this is simply not well grounded in the faith of Christ and the work He has begun in these latter days, beginning with the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon to bear witness, in part, that Jesus Christ is the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth.

And so I would like to say further that if there are people who believe this precious book to be true, but who are not willing to accept that Jesus Christ is indeed the Eternal God, they would be wise to refrain from arguing their point. For to do so is to speak against or contrary to the Holy Spirit, who is *the testimony of Jesus*, i.e. it is to blaspheme against Him, which is a very serious crime (Matthew 12:26-32 with III Nephi 5:38, John 15:26, Revelation 19:10 & Alma 4:9,10).

I know I have taken a rather firm stand. But if I were to take any other stand, I simply would have to deny my Lord. And I cannot do that. With Thomas I have come to know that Jesus Christ is *my Lord and my God* (John 20:28). And I am grateful that I no longer need to request, as Philip requested the night of Christ's betrayal, "*Show us the Father*" (John 14:8-10). I have seen Him in Jesus Christ (see I Timothy 6:13-16). For, the Son has born witness to my soul that the Father is the Son, and the Son is the Father; and I cannot deny it.

Again, this cannot be considered a side issue. It is key to our salvation to know in whom we believe and trust for our salvation. I believe that is why, in part, Satan stirs up so much strife over this subject. His objective in stirring up contentions over this very important issue is to blind us as to who truly is our Savior. Satan either tries to get us to either believe that anyone, including himself, can be the Christ, or that there is no Christ at all; hence he is the spirit of antichrist (cf. Genesis 3:1-5 with Matthew 24:6,22,23 with I John 4:1-4). But if either of these approaches does not work, Satan will simply attempt to get us confused about our Lord's true identity...

No, this is not a side issue in the least. This is the battleground. Satan does not want any of us to know, or to even believe that the very same God who created us has also bought us with His own precious blood that He *might be a perfect, just God, and a merciful God also* (Alma 19:97).

This would not do for Satan's plans. Satan wants to gain the glory for himself (Genesis 3:1-5 & D&C 76:3,4). Keeping the waters muddied through the promulgation and perpetuation of opinions, theories, assumptions, speculations, hunches, myths, presumption, and the like, about the true nature and identity of our Savior, all serve Satan's purpose. But those who hold faithfully onto the rod of iron, the Word of God, Jesus Christ, will not be deceived.

The carnal mind is enmity with God (Romans 8:7,8). Therefore, our minds cannot be trusted for conceiving of a sure knowledge of, or even articulating thoughts about the identity and nature of our Savior. What seems obvious to our way of thinking based on the faculties of our carnal minds cannot bring us such wondrous knowledge of God. A right understanding of who our Lord is comes directly from Him. It comes by revelation and is of the gift of His grace.

All things are delivered to me of my Father; and no man knoweth that the Son is the Father, and the Father is the Son, but him to whom the Son will reveal it. (Luke 10:23)

*...But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona; **for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven.** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and **upon this rock** I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:16-19)*

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one. **If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the son of God hath the witness in himself;** he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. (I John 5:7-12)*

*And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true; and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God,** and eternal life. (I John 5:20)*