

Building Bridges III

Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
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The Heart

Ephesians 4:11–16 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints 1) for the work of ministry, 2) for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that 1) we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, 2) **speaking the truth in love**, 3) may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

God

Doctrine of the LDS Church

Plurality of Gods

- * I will preach the plurality of Gods. I have selected this text (Rev 1:6) for that express purpose. I wish to declare I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been on the plurality of Gods...and these three (Father, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit) constitute three distinct personages and three Gods... (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 370)
- * Paul says that there are Gods many and Lords many. (1 Corin 8:5) (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 370-371)
- * It read first, "In the beginning the head of the Gods brought forth the Gods," or as others have translated it, "The head of the Gods called the Gods together." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 371)

God is an Exalted Man

- * God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens...
- * ...it is necessary we should understand the character and being of God and how he came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see...
- * ...he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 345-346)
- * If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And everything comes in this way. Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which is heavenly, Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He has a Father also? (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 373)

Men Can Become Gods

- * Here, then, is eternal life – to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely by going from one small degree to another...from exaltation to exaltation... (Teachings/Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 346-7)
- * These are the first principles of consolation...To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 347)

Council of Gods

In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people in it. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 349)

Brigham Young's Adam-God Teaching

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is MICHAEL, the Archangel, the ANCIENT OF DAYS! About whom holy men have written and spoken – HE is our FATHER and our GOD, and the only God with whom WE have to do. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and know it sooner or later. (Brigham Young Sermon, Special Conference Aug 28, 1852. Journal of Discourses 1:50-51)

God is a God of Flesh and Bones

* What Kind of Being is God? Because we are made in his image (see Moses 6:9), we know that God has a body that looks like ours. His eternal spirit is housed in a tangible body of flesh and bones (see D&C 130:22) ...All good things come from God. Everything he does is to help his children become like him – a god. (Gospel Principles, pg 9)

* The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Spirit has not a body of flesh and bones... (D&C 130:22)

* That which is without body or parts is nothing. There is no God in heaven but that God who has flesh and bones. (Teachings of the Presidents of the Church – Joseph Smith, pg 42.)

Biblical Doctrine

One & Only God (vs. Plurality of Gods & Council of Gods)

1. Isaiah 43:10 ¹⁰ "... Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

2. Isaiah 43:11 ¹¹ I, *even I, am* the LORD, And besides Me *there is* no savior.

3. Isaiah 44:6 ⁶ "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.

4. Isaiah 44:8 ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one.*' "

5. Isaiah 45:5 ⁵ I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other; *There is* no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me,

6. Isaiah 45:6 ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That *there is* none besides Me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other;

7. Isaiah 45:14 ¹⁴ ...They will make supplication to you, *saying*, 'Surely God *is* in you, And *there is* no other; *There is* no other God.'

8. Isaiah 45:18 ¹⁸ For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other.

9. Isaiah 45:21 ²¹ Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me.

10. Isaiah 45:22 ²² “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.

11. Isaiah 46:9a ⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other;

12. Isaiah 46:9b *I am* God, and *there is* none like Me,

Trinity – (Three in One/One in Three) (Please see “[The Doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible](#)”)

1. **God** - **Deuteronomy 6:4** ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one!

2. **Jesus** – **John 10:30** ³⁰ I and *My* Father are one.”

John 14:9 ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

3. **Holy Spirit** - **Luke 1:35** And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Eternal God (vs. God is an Exalted Man)

1. **Psalm 41:13** - Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

2. **Psalm 90:2** - Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

3. **Psalm 93:2** - Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

4. **Psalm 103:17** - But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting, On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children,

5. **Psalm 106:48** - Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD!

6. **Isaiah 63:16** - Doubtless You are our Father, Though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us. You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.

7. **Habakkuk 1:12** - Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One?...

Man Cannot Become a God (vs. We can become a God)

Genesis 3:4-5 ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Ezekiel 28:2-10 ² “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Because your heart *is* lifted up, And you say, ‘I *am* a god, I sit *in* the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,’ Yet you *are* a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god ³ (Behold, you *are* wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! ⁴ With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; ⁵ By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches),” ⁶ ‘Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, ⁷ Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of

your wisdom, And defile your splendor. ⁸ They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the slain In the midst of the seas. ⁹ “Will you still say before him who slays you, ‘I am a god’? But you *shall be* a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you. ¹⁰ You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken,” says the Lord GOD.’ ”

Jesus Calling Men Gods

John 10:34–36 - Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”’? **35** If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), **36** do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

*** Where is it written in the law, “You are gods?”**

- NOT in Psalm 82, that is the Psalms, and not the Law. The Jews and Jesus knew the difference between the Psalms and the Law.

Luke 24:44 - Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

*** It was written in the Law of Moses in:**

Exodus 21:6 - then his master shall bring him to the **judges** (*elohiym*). He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Exodus 22:8 - If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the **judges** (*elohiym*) to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor’s goods.

Exodus 22:9 - “For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which another claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the **judges** (*elohiym*) condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

* Clearly the use of “gods” “**elohiym**” here is referring to **men** who are acting in the place of God rendering judgment.

Angel Becoming a God

Isaiah 14:12-15 ¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

God is Spirit (vs. God has flesh and bones)

John 4:24 ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Matthew 16:17 ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:50 ⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Paul's Teaching on "Gods Many and Lords Many"

- * There is a difference between quoting someone and referencing someone.
- * There is also a danger in taking tiny portions of scripture out of context to make them say what you want them to say, sometimes twisting them to say the exact opposite of what they actually say.
- * Joseph Smith's referencing Paul regarding the plurality of gods is a perfect example of this.
- * Here is what Joseph Smith "said Paul said," with the clear intent to use him as teaching the doctrine of the plurality of gods.

"Paul says that there are Gods many and Lords many. (1 Corin 8:5)"

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 370-371)

- * Here is what Paul actually taught in context:

1 Corinthians 8:1–6 (NKJV) — 1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. **2** And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. **3** But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. **4** Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, **and that there is no other God but one.** **5** For even if there are **so-called gods**, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), **6 yet for us there is one God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

The Oneness of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the Book of Mormon

1. **2 Nephi 19:6** "For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a **son** is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The **Mighty God**, The **Everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a **Child** is born, Unto us a **Son** is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God**, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.

Cross references from B.O.M. for "The Mighty God":

Mosiah 7:27 "And because he said unto them that **Christ was the God, the Father** of all things, and said that he should take upon him the image of man, and it should be the image after which man was created in the beginning; or in other words, he said that man was created after the image of God, and that **God** should come down among the children of men, and take upon him flesh and blood, and go forth upon the face of the earth—" (They kill him for saying this, but then the wrath of God is poured out on them for killing him for saying this!)

Introduction to Mosiah 7

Ammon finds the land of Lehi-Nephi, where Limhi is king—Limhi's people are in bondage to the Lamanites—Limhi recounts their history—A prophet (Abinadi) had testified that Christ is the God and Father of all things—Those who sow filthiness reap the whirlwind, and those who put their trust in the Lord will be delivered. About 121 B.C.

Cross references from B.O.M. for "The Everlasting Father:"

2 Nephi 26:12 And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, **the Eternal God**;

Mosiah 3:5 For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, **the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth**, who was, and is **from all eternity to all eternity**, shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases.

Alma 38-39, 44 Now Zeezrom saith again unto him: **Is the Son of God the very Eternal Father?** And Amulek said unto him: **Yea, he is the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth, and all things which in them are; he is the beginning and the end, the first and the last;** 44 Now, this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; and even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but every thing shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of **Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God**, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

2. **3 Nephi 9:15** "Behold, **I am** Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name."

Cross references from the B.O.M. for "I am:"

3 Nephi 11:22-27 and verse 36 "And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them--Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water. And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name; for behold, verily I say unto you, **that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.**...And thus will the Father bear record of me, and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; **for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one.**"

Mosiah 15:1-5 "And now Abinadi said unto them: I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people. And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son--The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and the Son--**And they are one God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth.** And thus the flesh becoming subject to the Spirit, or the Son to the Father, **being one God,** suffereth temptation, and yieldeth not to the temptation, but suffereth himself to be mocked, and scourged, and cast out, and disowned by his people."

3. **2 Nephi 31:21** "And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is **one** God, without end. Amen."

Cross references from the B.O.M. for "one:"

1 Nephi 13:41 And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in bone; **for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.**

3 Nephi 38:10 And for this cause ye shall have fulness of joy; and ye shall sit down in the kingdom of my Father; yea, your joy shall be full, even as the Father hath given me fulness of joy; and ye shall be even as I am, and I am even as the Father; **and the Father and I are one;**

Helaman 8:22-23 "Our father Lehi was driven out of Jerusalem because he testified of these things. Nephi also testified of these things, and also almost all of our fathers, even down to this time; yea, they have testified of the coming of Christ, and have looked forward, and have rejoiced in his day which is to come. And behold, **he is God**, and he is with them, and he did manifest himself unto them, that they were redeemed by him; and they gave unto him glory, because of that which is to come."