

Building Bridges Series III

Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
- 2. 10/24 Jesus**
3. 10/31 The Church
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9. 12/19 Prophet, Bishop & Pastor
10. 1/2 Faith vs. Works
11. 1/9 Video: Lost Book of Abraham
12. 1/16 The Temple - Purpose & Role

The Heart of the Series

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 - Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **but have not love**, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, **but have not love**, it profits me nothing.

Jesus Christ

LDS Doctrine

Our Eldest Spirit Brother (Was a Creation, Had a Beginning)

* “Every person who was ever born on earth was our spirit brother or sister in heaven. The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ (see D&C 93:21), so he is literally our elder brother...” (Gospel Principles, pg 11)

* Jesus is man’s spiritual brother. We dwelt with Him in the spirit world as members of that large society of eternal intelligences, which included our Heavenly Parents and all the personages who have become mortal beings upon this earth or who ever shall come here to dwell. In that spirit-creation, when we became children of God, Jesus was the “first-born,” and so He is our eldest brother.” (The Gospel Through the Ages, pg 21)

Brother of Lucifer

* “Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, “Here I am, send me” (Abraham 3:27) (Gospel Principles, pg 17)

* “Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, “Behold, here I am, send me, I will be thy son, I will redeem all mankind...” After hearing both sons speak, Heavenly Father said, “I will send the first.” (Gospel Principles, pg 18)

* “At the great council in heaven, God stood in the midst of His spirit-children and appointed “the noble and great ones” to future positions of leadership after they should become mortals... The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning.” (The Gospel Through The Ages, pg 15)

* Jesus vs. Lucifer’s Plan - LDS.org Media Library Video Chapter 01: Before the Old Testament. (<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2010-12-01-chapter-01-before-the-old-testament?lang=eng>)

He was to be Born in Jerusalem

Alma 7:10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

“Only Begotten Son”

“He told her, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Thus, God the Father became the literal father of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only person on earth to be born of a mortal mother and an immortal father. That is why he is called the Only Begotten Son.” (Gospel Principles, pg 64)

Son of God – (Who has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as a man’s)

The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us. (D&C 130:22)

Son of Mary – (Who was a spirit daughter of Heavenly Father/Mother)

* From their accounts we learn that Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary. (Gospel Principles, pg 63.)

* The man Joseph, the husband of Mary, did not, that we know of, have more than one wife, but Mary the wife of Joseph had another husband. On this account infidels have called the Savior a bastard. This is merely a human opinion upon one of the inscrutable doings of the Almighty. That very babe that was cradled in the manger, was begotten, not by Joseph, the husband of Mary, but by another Being. Do you inquire by whom? He was begotten by God our heavenly Father, This answer may suffice you – you need never inquire more upon that point. (Brigham Young, Aug 19, 1866, Journal of Discourses 11:268)

Begotten by a Man who was God

* I believe firmly that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh... It was through this power that Jesus was brought into this world, but not as the Son of the Holy Ghost, but the Son of God... Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God! (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, pg 18)

* In relation to the way in which I look upon the works of God and his creatures, I will say that I was naturally begotten; so was my father, and also my Saviour Jesus Christ. According to the Scriptures, he is the first begotten of his father in the flesh, and there is nothing unnatural about it. (Heber C. Kimball, September 2, 1860, Journal of Discourses 8:211)

Begotten Same Way as Mortal Men

* These name-titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each of the words is to be understood literally. Only means only; Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers. (Mormon Doctrine, pg 546-547)

* That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance with a higher manifestation thereof; ... In His nature would be combined the powers of Godhood with the capacity and possibilities of mortality; and this through the ordinary operation of the fundamental law of heredity, declared of God, demonstrated by science, and admitted by philosophy, that living beings shall propagate—after their kind. The Child Jesus was to inherit the physical, mental, and spiritual traits, tendencies, and powers that characterized His parents—one immortal and glorified—God, the other human—woman. (Elder James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ, 3rd ed. [1916], 81).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/jesus-christ-and-the-everlasting-gospel-teacher-manual/lesson-7-jesus-christ-gods-only-begotten-son-in-the-flesh?lang=eng>)

* When the time came that His first-born, the Saviour, should come into the world and take a tabernacle the Father came Himself and favoured the spirit with a tabernacle instead of letting any other man do it. The Saviour was begotten by the Father of His spirit, as the same Being

who is Father of our spirits, and that is all the organic difference between Jesus Christ and you and me. And a difference there is between our Father and us consists in that He has gained His exaltation, and has obtained eternal lives. (Brigham Young, Feb 8, 1857, Journal of Discourses 4:218)

* The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; the result of a natural action. He partook of the flesh and blood – was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers. (Brigham Young, 2nd President, July 8, 1860, Journal of Discourses 8:115)

Progressed to Become a God

“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. What did Jesus do? Why; I do the things I saw my Father do when the worlds came rolling into existence. My Father worked out his kingdom with fear and trembling, and I must do the same; and when I get my kingdom, I shall present it to my Father, so that he may obtain kingdom upon kingdom and it will exalt him in glory. He will then take a higher exaltation, and I will take his place, and thereby become exalted my self. So that Jesus treads in the tracks of his Father, and inherits what God did before and God is thus glorified and exalted in the salvation and exaltation of all his children.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 347-348)

Even Christ himself was not perfect at first: he received not a fulness at first, but he received grace for grace, and he continued to receive more and more until her received his fullness. Is not this to be with the children of men? Is any man perfect? Has any man received a fulness at once? Have we reached a point wherein we may receive the fulness of God, of his glory, and his intelligence? No; and yet, if Jesus, the Son of God, and the Father of the heavens and the earth in which we dwell, received not a fulness at first, but increased in faith, knowledge, understanding and grace until he received a fulness, is it not possible for all men who are born of women to receive, little by little, line upon line, precept upon precept, until they shall receive a fulness, and be exalted with him in the presence of the Father? (Spelling maintained from original text.) (Joseph F Smith, 6th President, Gospel Doctrine, pg 86.)

Never Told Man/Woman to Love Their Enemies/Wicked Man

That is what Jesus Christ meant. He never told a man or a woman to love their enemies in their wickedness, never. He never intended such thing; his language is left as it is for those to read who have the Spirit to discern between truth and error; it was so left for those who can discern the things of God. Jesus never meant that we should love a wicked man in his wickedness. (Brigham Young, 2nd President, February 8, 1857, Journal of Discourses 4:220)

Biblical Doctrine

Jesus is From Everlasting/Eternal

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”

John 1:1 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 13:8 ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Luke 1:33 - And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Isaiah 9:6–7 - 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. **7** Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus was God

Isaiah 9:6 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.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 1:21-23 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Titus 2:13-14 ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us...

Hebrews 1:8 But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Lucifer was an Angel/Creation

Isaiah 14:12–15 - “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.

Ezekiel 28:13 ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

Ezekiel 28:14 ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. (Also 28:16)

Jesus was/is Unique from Angels

Hebrews 1:5 ⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

Hebrews 1:6-8 ⁶But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” ⁷And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”

Jesus is the only “ONLY Begotten Son”

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 - No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:18 - “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

1 John 4:9 - In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

We are Adopted by God by Believing in Jesus Christ

John 1:10 – He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Galatians 3:26 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:5 - having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 8:15 - For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:23 - Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Galatians 4:4–5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Jesus has a Different Origin Than all People

John 3:13 ¹³No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

John 3:31 ³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

John 8:23 And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”

John 13:3 ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

Order of Our Existence

1 Corinthians 15:46-49 ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As *was* the man of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly Man, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

He is Only Begotten of the Father AND Conceived by the Power Holy Spirit

Matthew 1:18 ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:20 ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:35 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.”

He was to be Born in Bethlehem and was Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 - “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Luke 2:4-7 ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Fulfilled prophesy of Micah 5:2)

He Did Not Progress to Become a God (Attain Exaltation)

John 1:1, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:6-10 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 7:26 - For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

He is THE Savior & We are the Saved – (Not a merely a Model to be Followed)

Isaiah 53:5 ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Matthew 1:21 ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Luke 2:11 - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

John 4:42 - Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

John 14:6 ...“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Acts 13:23 - From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior —Jesus—

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Timothy 4:10 - For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

2 Peter 1:1 - Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 1:11 - for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus Told Us to Love Our Enemies/Wicked

Matthew 5:44–48 - But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Romans 5:8–10 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. **10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

