

Do You Know the One True God?
(A Review of the Mormon doctrine of Eternal Progression)

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: A study of the nature of God is one of the most important studies we can engage in.

A. If we fail to understand the one true God then we missed it all. **(Jn 17:3)**

John 17:3 (KJV) ³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

B. If we follow a god that is result of the efforts or imaginations of men, then our entire life will be cursed. **(Psa 135:16-18)**

Psalm 135:16 through Psalm 135:18 (KJV) ¹⁶They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;

¹⁷They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there *any* breath in their mouths.

¹⁸They that make them are like unto them: *so is* every one that trusteth in them.

I. The Bible is direct and emphatic that there has been and always will be one true God.

A. Any religion that teaches more than one God throughout all eternity is false.

(Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10; 45:5; 46:9; 1 Tim 2:5)

Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV) ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

Isaiah 45:5 (KJV) ⁵*I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 46:9 (KJV) ⁹Remember the former things of old: for *I am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me,

1 Timothy 2:5 (KJV) ⁵For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

B. Our God has always been God and has never changed from eternity to eternity!

Psalm 90:2 (KJV) ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

Psalm 93:2 (KJV) ²Thy throne *is* established of old: thou *art* from everlasting.

c. Even the Book of Mormon affirms this truth. **(Moroni 8:18; Mormon 9:9)**

Moroni 8:18 - For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.

Mormon 9:9 - For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?

D. Our God has no beginning and will have no end. **(Isa 43:10; 57:15)**

Isaiah 43:10 (KJV) ¹⁰Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that *I am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 57:15 (KJV) ¹⁵For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

II. The Doctrine of Eternal progression tells us that God was once a sinful man

A. Our Mormon friends believe that their God was once a man who went through a process they call “eternal progression” and became a God.

"We believe in a God who is Himself progressive, whose majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in eternal advancement -- a Being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: 'As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be.'" - **LDS Apostle James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith, Ch.24, p.430 - p.431; cf. D&C 132:20**

God is not a uniquely eternal being. All spirit is self-existent matter and is eternal (without beginning or end). Such "matter (called intelligences) sometimes becomes organized into a spirit being through birth to celestial parents. Then that spirit is born through human parents on earth. Like all people, God took this course and eventually reached Godhood.

God would stop being God if intelligences stopped supporting him as God.

(D&C 93:29, 33; Abraham 3:18-23; Mormon Doctrine, 1977 ed. p. 751)

2. They believe than any Mormon can one day be like God and bear spiritual children in heaven that will one day be sent to another planet. Therefore there are many gods.

"How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods. - **Brigham Young-Journal of Discourses 7:333**

3. They therefore believe that Jesus was once only a man and progressed to become a God. Satan was his brother in heaven before he rebelled!

B. What kind of “heaven” does the doctrine of “eternal progression” bring?

"Each God, through his wife or wives, raises up a numerous family of sons and daughters; indeed, there will be no end to the increase of his own children: for each father and mother will be in a condition to multiply forever and ever. As soon as each God has begotten many millions of male and female spirits, and his Heavenly inheritance becomes too small, to comfortably accommodate his great family, he, in connection with his sons, organizes a new world, after a similar order to the one which we now inhabit, where he sends both the male and female spirits to inhabit tabernacles of flesh and bones. Thus each God forms a world for the accommodation of his own sons and daughters who are sent forth in their times and seasons, and generations to be born into the same. The inhabitants of each world are required to reverence, adore, and worship their own personal father who dwells in the Heaven which they formerly inhabited" (The Seer, p. 37).

"Sin is upon every earth that ever was created, and if it was not so, I would like some philosophers to let us know how people can be exalted to become sons of

God, and enjoy a fulness of glory with the Redeemer. Consequently every earth has its redeemer, and every earth has its tempter; and every earth, and the people thereof, in their turn and time, receive all that we receive, and pass through all the ordeals that we are passing through" - - **Brigham Young (Journal of Discourses 14:71-72).**

1. How can this be heaven? (**Rev 21:4**)
2. Imagine seeing the overwhelming majority of your children fall into darkness and be lost!

III. God is a spirit and was never just a man

A. Jesus tells us plainly that our God is a spirit and is not made of flesh and bones. (**Jn 4:24; 8:23; Lk 24:39**)

John 4:24 (KJV) ²⁴God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

John 8:23 (KJV) ²³And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

Luke 24:39 (KJV) ³⁹Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

B God is not, nor has ever been a man. (**Num 23:19; Hosea 11:9**).

Numbers 23:19 (KJV) ¹⁹God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Hosea 11:9 (KJV) ⁹I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I *am* God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

B. Jesus was one of the three persons that comprise the triune God. He has always been God but later took on flesh. (**Jn 1:1-3, 14**)

John 1:1 through John 1:3 (KJV) ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 (KJV) ¹⁴And the Word was made 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.

1. God became man not man became God!
2. What is your god like? What was his earthly name? What sins did he commit? What color is his hair, his eyes? Is he still progressing? If so, has he made any mistakes lately?

C. Our God made the heavens and earth. All other gods are false and will perish! (**Jer 10:10-11; Jn 1:3; Col 1:16-17**)

Jeremiah 10:10 through Jeremiah 10:11 (KJV) ¹⁰But the LORD *is* the true God, he *is* the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. ¹¹Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, *even* they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

John 1:3 (KJV) ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Colossians 1:16 through Colossians 1:17 (KJV) ¹⁶For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

This discussion was held on February 17, 2011 at the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama

Complete audio, PowerPoint and addition resource files will be posted to www.aubeacon.com

**Do you have any questions from this study? Please contact me anytime!
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133 larryrouse@aubeacon.com**