

## Chapter Whatever:

### SOME MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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#### The Creation

**Question:** During the creation, how were animals placed upon the earth?

**Answer:** This, unfortunately, is something few members of the Church understand. It has nothing whatsoever to do with evolution. Animals were placed upon the earth in the same way Adam and Eve were: they were born of resurrected parents. A resurrected cow, for instance, came from an earth which has already passed through what we now experience, and through the normal birth processes had offspring. (MLM Journal, Nov. I, 1984).

**Question:** In your article, "Christ and the Creation," (Ensign, June, 1982), you speak of the "seeds planted by the creators." To what do you refer?

**Answer:** When they, the creators, that is all the noble and great ones who helped Elohim, Jehovah and Michael in the creation, when they helped they literally planted seeds. This we understand from both the temple account and the Pearl of Great Price accounts of the creation.

Where did they get the seeds? From another sphere, from which they brought them. This means that the same kinds of animals and vegetables exist on all other worlds. The seeds came from some other planet, or planets. The same thing is true of horses, elephants and all animals. But this is so far beyond the saints that we don't preach it.

It means some resurrected elephants came and had offspring. Afterwards came the fall of Adam. All this is had in the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon. That's why we don't have the sealed portions. We're trying to be kind to all the evolutionists at the BYU, hoping that if given time and opportunity, they will repent and believe the gospel. For political reasons we don't tell them more. It was the same with Peter and the issue of circumcision among the Jews. (MLM Journal, March 12, 1984).

**Question:** Speaking of the creation, and the processes of procreation, the scriptures say that plants and animals bore offspring 'after their own kind.' What does that phrase mean?

**Answer:** Given the Lord's system, it could only mean that they reproduce and create offspring exactly as they themselves are. Like begets like. They have not power to reproduce after any other kind. This expression emphasizes what the Lord's order is and must be (Journal, March 12, 1984).

## Great and Abominable Church

**Question:** What was ‘the great and spacious building’ which Nephi saw in his vision, in 1 Nephi chapter 8?

**Answer:** Once while I was in England, in the Salisbury Cathedral, the thought came to me that the great and spacious building which Nephi saw was probably St. Peter’s Basilica. After all, he saw the great and abominable church, which is headquartered in Rome, and Rome’s greatest and most spacious building is St. Peter’s Basilica. I can similarly reason about the mark of the beast: I know what the beast is—that is, which church it is—and what sign, or mark—the sign of the cross—it has used over the generations to symbolize its presence, pre-eminence and worship. (MLM Journal, 1984).

## Nephite Marriages

**Question:** Since Nephi, his brothers, and Zoram married the daughters of Ishmael, and since Lehi’s daughter’s must have married Ishmael’s sons, it seems that Lehi would have performed the ceremonies. Is that reasonable?

**Answer:** He obviously performed them. (MLM Journal, Nov. 21, 1984).

**Question:** Since Lehi and his family took with them the Melchisedek priesthood, and since they were going out to start a new Church, they would have been doing things according to the Lord’s order, which means they would have had the sealing power and would have performed celestial marriages as we do in the Temples today.

**Answer:** That reasoning is sound.

**Question:** Does this imply that Lehi would have held some position in the Church structure which was of apostolic or prophetic stature, and that that is the reason he would have held the priesthood keys which enabled him to perform eternal marriages?

**Answer:** This too is sound reasoning.

**Question:** This would suggest the possibility that others would have known of his departure—prophetic confidants wise enough and disciplined enough not to make mention of it.

**Answer:** Our scriptures make no mention of such events, though they do tell us that there were many prophets in Jerusalem at the time, and they would obviously have known each other. Thus, the reasoning is plausible.

**Question:** Do we have any information on how Lehi might have received the priesthood keys he held?

**Answer:** No, we have no such information. It makes most sense to suggest that he got them from men on earth who possessed them, as it is contrary to the practice of heaven to send angels to do for men that which they can do for themselves.

**Question:** Why did the Lord just give Lehi the Liahona, without making him work for it, as he did others, like the Brother of Jared, who had to work out the solutions to his own problems.

**Answer:** What happened with Lehi really violates no divine pattern. Remember that Joseph Smith received the Urim and Thummim, which also operated on the basis of faith, and it too just came with the calling. I can't be sure, but perhaps these are instruments which these prophets could not manufacture for themselves, and so the Lord intervened. (MLM Journal, Nov. 21, 1984).

### On the Brother of Jared Seeing the Lord

**Question:** What does the Book of Mormon mean when it says, of the Brother of Jared, "...never have I showed myself unto man whom I created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast?" (see Ether 3:15).

**Answer:** It means that never had man seen the Savior so completely, so entirely, so wholly, as upon this occasion. Moses and others, after this experience took place, may have had similar experiences, but up to this point in time, the Brother of Jared had a more complete knowledge and experience than any other. (MLM Journal, Dec. 6, 1984).

### On Restoring the Jews to their Lands of Inheritance

**Question:** What did Jacob mean when he said that the Jews would be restored 'to the land~ of their inheritance'? (see 2 Me. 9:2).

**Answer:** The Lamanites are Jews, aren't they? (MLM Journal, Dec. 6, 1984).

### On Isaiah Seeing the "train of the Lord"

**Question:** What did Isaiah mean when he said, "...I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, . . . and his train filled the temple" (Isa. 6:1). What is "his train"? Is it his retinue, following, entourage, or what we might call his angels in attendance?

**Answer:** I do not know. (MLM Journal, Dec. 10, 1984).

## Joseph Smith's Meaning of "Intelligence" and "Spirit"

**Question:** What is the meaning of the Prophet's language in the King Follett Discourse regarding spirits and intelligence?

**Answer:** Footnote number 8 on page 354 of the *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, which was written by B. H. Roberts, is in error. Brother Roberts was one of those who propounded the idea of a pre-existence to the pre-existence. Joseph Smith's doctrine, on the other hand, is that spirit has always existed, though spirits have not. That is, the spirit element from which the spirits of men were made has always existed, though the spirits of men have not always existed as they now do or as they did in the pre-existence. Abraham, like Joseph Smith, uses the word "intelligence" as a synonym for "spirit;" "intelligences," then, is synonymous with "spirits."

When we say that God is our Father, or the Father of our Spirits, we mean just that. We are his begotten spirits, Christ being the Firstborn or First Begotten. Thus, when we were born in the pre-mortal sphere as spirits, we were created out of existing element called spirit (or intelligence, to use Abraham's phrase).

The B. H. Roberts doctrine was created out of speculation, and does not conform to the scriptures.

When Abraham spoke of "intelligences that were organized," he meant the spirits or souls of men, gathered in the pre-mortal council. Intelligences are spirits; intelligence is spirit, or, I assume, one might say "matter unorganized," to use the language of the temple. In section 93 the word "intelligence" is used synonymously with the word "spirit" as used elsewhere.

When the Lord says in section 93 (v. 30) "otherwise there is no existence," he is summarizing in one verse, in brief and condensed form, what Lehi said in 2 Nephi 2—verses 11-12 in particular. The phrase "otherwise there is no existence" is the same as Lehi's meaning, and we might just as well say "otherwise there is no creation." The fundamental issue is that of agency, without which we, with Lehi, come to the conclusion that there is no God: if there is no agency, there is no God. Nothing could exist without agency, for agency is the law of opposites. This is one of the great philosophical concepts of the gospel, for from it we learn that if there were no agency there would be no life.

When Brigham Roberts first published the *Documentary History of the Church*, Charles Penrose refused to let the King Follett Discourse be included in it, for he did not believe it. I have, or had, a copy of this early History, and it leaves the discourse out, though it left the pagination unchanged. Thus the pagination goes from something like page 415 to page 440. A large part of the King Follett Discourse has been suppressed, as it reports that the Prophet said that little children would come forth from the grave and be resurrected as children, then enter into the Celestial Kingdom and *reign as children*. This of course is

false, and is the reason Joseph F. Smith took such labor to correct it in *Improvement Era* writing which has been preserved in *Gospel Doctrine* as well.

In places, the King Follett Discourse is ambiguous, as the above note on the salvation of little children suggests. It was given in April, and the Prophet was murdered in June, without having had the opportunity to revise, review, or correct the transcription of the speech. It is a miracle, frankly, that it has been accepted by the Church today as well as it has. It is in this discourse the Joseph announced that men could become Gods, and, once you learn the plan of salvation the idea that men can become Gods is the most natural, instinctive and obvious commonplace one could expect. That is why the fellow on the Godmakers is so wicked, because it perverts such a sound and simple gospel doctrine. This doctrine that men can become Gods is the most obvious thing in the world. (MLM Journal, Feb. 26, 1984).

### On the Birth of Spirit Children

**Question:** Were spirit children born through the same process as mortal children—meaning through the union of the sexes?

**Answer:** It is obviously so, and I have heard President Kimball say so. (MLM Journal, Feb. 26, 1984).

### Patriarchal Blessings:

**Question:** When a Patriarch gives a blessing, do we expect him to understand everything he says or promises?

**Answer:** No, we do not. (MLM Journal, July 12, 1972).

### Rights to the Priesthood:

**Question:** We have a passage in the Doctrine and Covenants which identifies the descendants of the unrighteous as not having the right to the priesthood. If I were a missionary tracting, and came to the house of a Great Grandson of William Smith, would I be able to give him the gospel?

**Answer:** He has no right.

**Question:** If I baptize the Great Grandson of William Smith, and he thereafter gets a patriarchal blessing, must he be adopted into the House of Israel?

**Answer:** Yes, he had lost the right to the blessings of the House of Israel, and must come back through adoption. It is just as easy to get cast out of the House of Israel as it is to be adopted in. (MLM Journal, May 2, 1970).