



Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel

Jesus Christ – God's Only Begotten Son in the Flesh

Jesus Christ Fulfilled All Righteousness



Matt 1:18–24

Luke 1:26–35

Mosiah 3:7–8

Mother



Father



You

Mary



Heavenly
Father



Jesus Christ

“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” (James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. [1916], 81).





Traits from both parents were essential

Why was it essential that Jesus have both types of parents?

The Divine Sonship of Jesus Christ – John 10

“The divine Sonship of Jesus Christ ... is central to understanding the entire plan of salvation. He is the First Begotten Son of the Father in the premortal existence and the Only Begotten Son of the Father on earth. God the Eternal Father is the literal parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of His other spirit children. ...

“The ‘divine Sonship’ also refers to the designation ‘Only Begotten Son in the flesh.’ ... This title signifies that Jesus’ physical body was the offspring of a mortal mother and of an immortal Eternal Father, which verity is crucial to the Atonement, a supreme act that could not have been accomplished by an ordinary man. Christ had power to lay down His life and power to take it again because He had inherited immortality from His Heavenly Father. From Mary, His mother, Christ inherited mortality, or the power to die.

“This infinite atonement of Christ and Christ’s divine Sonship go together hand in hand to form the single most important doctrine of all Christianity” (Robert E. Wells, “Our Message to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 65).

Asherah – The Tree

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Hadley, Judith. *The Cult of Asherah in Ancient Israel and Judah: Evidence for a Hebrew Goddess*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press (2000).

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This four-tiered cult stand found at Tanaach is thought to represent Yahweh and Asherah, with each deity being depicted on alternating tiers. Note that on tier two, which is dedicated to Asherah, is the image of a living tree, often thought to be how the asherim as a cult symbol was expressed. Photo: © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem/Israel Antiquities Authority (photograph by Avraham Hay).

1 Nephi 11

9 And it came to pass after I had seen the tree, I said unto the Spirit: I behold thou hast shown unto me the tree which is precious above all.10 And he said unto me: What desirest thou?11 And I said unto him: To know the interpretation thereof—for I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another.

1 Nephi 11

12 And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look! And I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not; for he had gone from before my presence. 13 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white.

1 Nephi 11

16 And he said unto me: Knowest thou the
condescension of God?

17 And I said unto him: I know that he loveth his
children; nevertheless, I do not know the
meaning of all things.

18 And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom
thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after
the manner of the flesh.

The Condescension

“God the Son traded his heavenly home with all its celestial adornments for a mortal abode with all its primitive trappings. He, ‘the King of heaven’ (Alma 5:50), ‘the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth’ (Mosiah 3:5), left a throne to inherit a manger. He exchanged the dominion of a god for the dependence of a babe. ... It was a trade of unparalleled dimension. ... The great Jehovah, creator of worlds without number, infinite in virtue and power, made his entry into this world in swaddling clothes and a manger” (Elder Callister, *The Infinite Atonement* [2000], 64).

The Tree manifest to the Jews



The Condescension of the Father

“The condescension of God (meaning the Father) consists in the fact that though he is an exalted, perfected, glorified Personage, he became the personal and literal Father of a mortal Offspring born of mortal woman” (Elder McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 155).



Matthew 3.13-17

During a conversation with a friend about religion, the subject of baptism comes up. After you explain why we are baptized, your friend asks, “I understand that we are baptized to be cleansed from sin. But Jesus was perfect; He didn’t have any sins. So why was He baptized?”

Fulfill all righteousness

Matthew 3.15

2 Nephi 31.4-9

He humbled himself before the Father.

He witnessed to the Father that He would obey His commandments.

He showed the children of men the gate by which they can enter the celestial kingdom.

He set an example for us.

How does Jesus Christ's baptism provide an example of righteousness?



How does Jesus Christ's baptism provide an example of righteousness?


Righteousness includes humbly conforming to the will of the Father.

Righteousness includes covenanting with the Father to obey His commandments.

Righteousness includes receiving the ordinances of salvation.

Righteousness includes following the example set by Jesus Christ.





The
implications of
this truth

Since Jesus “fulfilled all righteous” (all the requirements and ordinances of the gospel), what does that imply?

“The Fall provided a way for the family to grow. Adam and Eve were family leaders who chose to have a mortal experience. The Fall made it possible for them to have sons and daughters.

“The Atonement allows for the family to be sealed together eternally. It allows for families to have eternal growth and perfection. The plan of happiness, also called the plan of salvation, was a plan created for families. The rising generation need to understand that the main pillars of our theology are centered in the family”

(Julie B. Beck, “Teaching the Doctrine of the Family,” Ensign, Mar. 2011, 12).



Baptismal Covenants

2 Nephi 31.16-17

Romans 6.3-6

Genesis 15.18 karath beriyth “cut a covenant” or “made a covenant”

“When we understand our baptismal covenant and the gift of the Holy Ghost, it will change our lives and will establish our total allegiance to the kingdom of God. When temptations come our way, if we will listen, the Holy Ghost will remind us that we have promised to remember our Savior and obey the commandments of God. ...” ... I pray that each of us as members of His kingdom will understand that our baptism and confirmation is the gateway into His kingdom. When we enter, we covenant to be of His kingdom—forever!” (Elder Robert D. Hales, “The Covenant of Baptism: To Be in the Kingdom and of the Kingdom,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 7–8, 9).

Fulfill all righteousness

Luke 22.16, 18

D&C 27

Revelation 19.7-10

Exodus 24

Establishing a Kingdom