

Said the Lord to Moses:

"World without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by my Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

"And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many."

It may be contended that this reference to Adam is generic and does not refer to the man Adam as an individual. This does not seem to conform to the thought expressed, for it is stated that "the first of All men have I called Adam, which is many." This certainly has reference to Adam the individual whose name means "many" because he is the father of all. A similar meaning is found in the name "Eve," which means the mother of all living.

We read that Adam is Michael, called the Ancient of Days, because he is the first man. The Savior said to Joseph Smith that he should "drink of the fruit of the vine" with the holy prophets among whom will be numbered "Michael, or Adam, the father of All, the prince of all, the ancient of days." D. and C. 27:11.

"If there were races on the earth before Adam, what kind of beings were they? Answering this question, I think we would be forced to say they would have been children of God, his offspring, just as we are said to be. They would, then, have been living souls, that is to say, spirits and bodies combined. They would then have been created to live forever, just as we were. Since the great work and glory of the Lord is to "bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." It is reasonable to expect, then, that these "pre-Adamites" would have been entitled to the same kind of blessings which we are

promised. They would have had the plan of salvation. They would also have had among them prophets, men holding Priesthood; and they would have to be subject to the laws of the Gospe as well as to other laws. How could it be otherwise? They would not have been created for naught, since the Lord has declared that he saves all the workmanship of his hands, even the animal life, and "not one hair, neither mote, shall be lost." Is it possible in the light of the revelations concerning man and his destiny to conceive of the thought that there could have been men who were not children of God?

If children of God and entitled to these blessings of salvation then there would have been men holding keys before Adam. Such prophets we would expect to precede Adam in point of authority on the earth, just as Adam precedes Noah who also was the first man of the race for the flood. But what do we discover? That it is Adam who stands at the head and who holds the keys of Salvation for this earth and will be crowned when he delivers up his authority to Jesus Christ. Do not "pre-Adamites" have a claim upon this earth? Why is it they have been ignored in the restitution of all things?

WAS ADAM A TRANSLATED BEING?

The belief that Adam was a translated being who came here from one other world having in him the seeds of death temporarily suspended, does not harmonize with the scriptures. From the beginning of the world prophets and saints have been translated and taken from the earth. Some of these translated prophets such as John and the three Nephites were remained on the earth ministering among mankind. Translated beings have full possession of all their faculties. They have knowledge

of good and evil, in fact they are in possession of greater wisdom and power than men who have not received that change. All their faculties are quickened and their powers enlarged. Such men have been sent to restore keys and authority in various dispensations.

Was this the case with Adam? Did he come to the earth with all his faculties and powers unempaired? Did he have knowledge of good and evil? We are informed that he did not even know that he was naked. He was "innocent" because he had not come in contact with sin. His faculties were not fully awakened and he was in a state where he could do "no good for he knew no sin" having no joy for he "knew no misery." This is not the condition of those who are translated.

What object could the Lord have had in placing Adam on this earth a translated being, who had passed through experience in some other sphere, and then take from him his knowledge leaving him in a state less capable than a man in full mortality? Reason opposes the thought that the Lord took from Adam his knowledge and left him in the innocent state of a new born babe, where he knew no good for he knew no sin, just to create a condition where the man would have to transgress so that knowledge could come back to him. And then, when he did transgress and gained this knowledge, place a penalty upon him and his posterity which was so powerful and awful in its nature, that it required an infinite atonement by the shedding of the blood of the Son of God to make amends. The whole story of translation in the case of Adam is absurd. We are forced to the conclusion that Adam was not a translated being.

ADAM'S BODY CREATED FROM THE GROUND

Another difficulty confronting such a theory is the statement that Adam received his body out of the dust of the earth. I will cite some scripture:

"And I the Lord God, formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." — Moses 3:7.

"By the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, until thou shalt return unto the ground—for thou shalt surely die—for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou wast, and unto dust shalt thou return. * *

"And I, the Lord God, said unto mine Only Begotten: Behold the man is become as one of us to know good and evil, and now lest he put forth his hand and partake also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever,

"Therefore, I the Lord God, will send him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken." —Moses 4:25-29.

"And the Gods formed man from the dust of the ground, and took his spirit (that is, the man's spirit), and put it into him; and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." — Abraham 5:7.

Once more the Temple comes to our aid with definite information that Adam's body was of the dust of the earth.

This is what Alma taught to Corianton:

"Now, behold, my son, I will explain this thing unto thee: for behold, after the Lord God sent our first parents forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground, from whence they were taken, yea, he drew out the man." etc. — Alma 42:2

WAS ADAM SUBJECT TO DEATH BEFORE THE FALL?

It is perhaps needless for me to say much on this question, for later I will show the true status from other testimony.

Translated beings are subject to death: in them death is merely suspended. The scriptures teach us that Adam was told that if he partook of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil he would surely die. That death was to be twofold, spiritual and temporal. The first was banishment from the presence of the Lord, the second the separation of spirit and body. Before the Fall Adam was not subject to death. There is no advantage to be gained by quibbling upon this point. The fact is clearly stated that he would have lived forever had he not transgressed the law. He became subject to death because he broke the law under which he was living. We all know it was part of the plan and was necessary. But we are confronted with a fact stated by an ancient prophet, that Adam would not have died had he not transgressed, but would have lived forever.

"And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the Garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever and had no end."
— 2 Nephi 2:22.

No amount of sophistry can change this fact. Adam had the power, had he refused to eat the forbidden fruit, to have remained forever and had no end. There is but one conclusion, which is, that his condition was one where death was not enthroned and had no power. Again, this passage proves the point that ALL things would also have remained in like condition with him. The inevitable conclusion then is that because Adam transgressed, all things had to suffer the curse of that fall. The earth was cursed at that time and also "fell" carrying with it into the mortal condition all life upon its face.

I care not what word may be used. Our language is imperfect. I know of no other word that will fit the description other than that Adam was immortal, that is not under the ban of death, before the fall, and mortal afterwards. If some other term will express the thought, all well and good. But these are the facts as we have to face them.

Alma said in his instruction to his wayward son:

"Therefore, as the soul could never die, and the fall had brought upon all mankind a spiritual death as well as a temporal; that is they were cut off from the presence of the Lord," etc.

If the fall brought temporal death, then again, I say there was no temporal death before the fall, suspended or otherwise.

What did Christ come into the world to do? To bring to pass the resurrection, for, as Paul says, All men had died through Adam's fall; but all men were to be made alive through Jesus Christ who is the resurrection and the life. Adam as a translated being could not be held responsible for passing death on to his posterity, we would have to go farther back for the cause than that, and this we are forbidden to do by a multitude of scriptures.

THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

The scriptures are no more explicit in saying that we are living in the last dispensation than they are in saying that Adam was living in the first. There is as good reason for us to disregard revelation and say that other races will follow us on earth, as to say there were races before Adam. Yet we know that the Millennial reign is at our doors, and it is to be followed by the death and resurrection of the earth. In this present dispensation there is to be a restitution

all things. Peter says that Christ will come in the "times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times, he (God) might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him."--Eph. 1:10.

The Lord gave to Joseph Smith further light about this restoration; see Section 29, and 88 and 133, of the Doctrine and Covenants. In this restoration we learn that Adam will take his place at the head, under Jesus Christ. He fought the battle against Lucifer in heaven; he will lead the righteous in the final conflict. He is to be crowned with glory over this earth and its inhabitants. Should these pre-Adamites have something to say or do in this restoration? Where are their prophets? How can it be a restoration of all things pertaining to this earth if they are left out of it? Yet they are not mentioned or in any way accounted for in the restoration, which leads to but one conclusion, they never did exist on this earth.

They are not accounted for in the opening of the seven seals by the Lamb of God, neither in the sounding of the trumpets of the seven Angels spoken of in section 88. The seventh angel, who is Adam, will "swear in the name of him who sitteth upon the throne, that time shall be no longer. "Satan will be bound," and after the thousand years are completed the mortal existence of this earth will end. It will then take its place among the exalted worlds and all things upon it shall be celestial.

THE EARTH TO BE RENEWED

In one of the Articles of Faith we say: "We believe * * * that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradidacal glory." If it is to be renewed and to receive its paradisiacal glory, then there is to be a restoration to something like it was in the days of Adam's sojourn in Paradise. Perhaps we can get some idea from the revelations what kind of a world this was in Adam's day. When the earth is renewed we learn that wickedness will cease; continents and islands will be joined again like they were in the beginning, before they were divided. Mountains are to be leveled and valleys exalted; the sea will be driven back into the north. There will be no enmity between beasts. Man will live in peace and without pain or sorrow. No man will die until he is old for death will be banished save for the sudden change to immortality in the twinkling of an eye.

If this is being renewed as in the days of Paradise, then we discover somewhat the meaning of the term "good" spoken of the earth by the Lord in the days of Adam. For there was no enmity between man and beast, or beast and beast; there was no pain or sorrow, there was no death. Let me ask these pertinent questions. Is it not plain that the earth did not fall until after Adam did? What kind of beings then would pre-Adamites be? Necessarily immortal beings. Or did the earth pass through several falls? and was it renewed several times? That is out of the question.

It is the scientific belief that this earth came into existence with the same physical imperfections that we find upon it now. Scientists maintain that all life since the beginning, has been mortal, changing, dying. That is to say, there never was a fall in which the earth and all animal life was engulfed, for they were always subject to mortal death. If this were true, then the earth and all life upon it would have no claim on a restoration—but the earth receives ordinances and transgresses not. The scriptures say that Jesus came to restore that which was lost. How could he restore that which was never taken away? And therefore, if we hold to the doctrine of pre-Adamite races, and that they and all life were always subject to death, then consistency demands us to say that they have no claim on the mercies and the atonement of Jesus Christ. Who redeemed them, if they had a fall some hundreds of thousands, or millions of years ago? And if they were redeemed, why did not the earth partake of that same redemption?

We will let others who are more worthy speak. I shall begin with the Prophet Joseph Smith:

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH SMITH

"Commencing with Adam, who was the first man, who is spoken of in Daniel as being the 'Ancient of Days,' or in other words, the first and oldest of all, the great grand progenitor of whom it is said in another place he is Michael, because he was the first and father of all, not only by progeny, but the first to hold the spiritual blessings, to whom was made known the plan of ordinances for the salvation of his posterity unto the end, and to whom Christ was first revealed, and

through whom Christ has been revealed from heaven, and will continue to be revealed from henceforth. Adam holds the keys of the dispensation of the fulness of times i.e. THE DISPENSATION OF ALL TIMES have been and will be revealed through him from the beginning...

"And again, God purposed in himself that there should not be an eternal fulness until every dispensation should be fulfilled and gathered together in one and in those dispensations unto the same fulness and general glory, should be in Christ Jesus; therefore he set the ordinances to be the same for ever and ever, and set Adam to watch over them, to reveal them from heaven to man, or to send angels to reveal them....

"These angels are under the direction of Michael or Adam, who acts under the direction of the Lord."—Hist. of the Church, 4:207f.

This is in harmony with the revelation coming through Joseph Smith: "Who hath appointed Michael, your prince, and established his feet, and set him upon high, and given unto him the keys of salvation, under the counsel and direction of the Holy One, who is without beginning of days or end of life." D. and C. 78:16.

Again the Prophet said: "This, then, is the nature of the Priesthood; every man holding the presidency of his dispensation, and one man holding the presidency of them all, even Adam; and Adam, receiving his presidency and authority from the Lord, but cannot receive a fulness until Christ shall present the kingdom to the Father which shall be at the end of the last dispensation." History of the Church 4:207f.

"The Priesthood was first given to Adam; he obtained the first presidency, and held the keys of it from generation to generation.