



Eternalness Of God

Discussion 2: ETERNALNESS OF GOD

What Are The Basic Questions Of Life?

When we are young, we ask questions of our earthly parents, such as "Where did we come from?" and "What is our purpose in life?" Many of us will continue to ask these questions throughout our lives. We believe that through knowing who God is and the nature of His existence, we are able to know who we are in relationship to Him and thus our purpose on this earth. Let's look closely at the nature of God.

Who Do You Think God Is?

Some have claimed that God has not always been God. In fact, Lorenzo Snow, the fifth prophet of the Latter-Day Saint Church, said, "As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become." By this statement, he was implying that the Heavenly Father was at one time a man who progressed and was exalted to the status of God.

Is This Position Consistent With What The Bible Teaches?

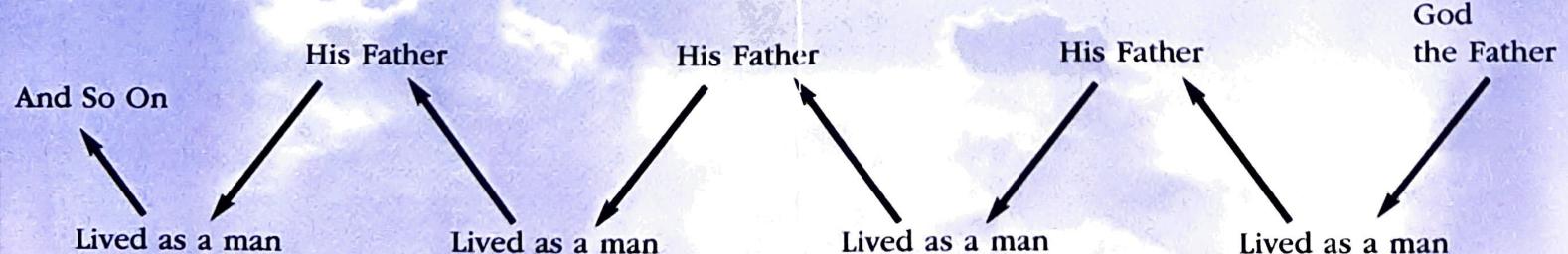
Unfortunately, this view does not stand to reason and is not founded in God's Word, the Bible. If God was once a man, that would imply that He

had a Father, who was once a man, who had a Father, who was once a man, who had a Father ... There can be no designated beginning to this continual chain of fathers. This view of God is insufficient because one cannot find an independent and eternal being to start this chain. Without a first cause to start this continual chain of Gods, the existence of such a chain is logically impossible.

The Bible teaches that God created the world and that He has always been God. In Psalm 90:2, we read, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." This verse affirms that God has always been God and that there is no beginning given to Him.

The Bible describes God as being self-existent, eternal and uncaused. In Isaiah 43:10, it says, "Ye 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." Because God is everlasting, and He knows of no other God, we can be confident that there is no other deity beside Him.

CYCLES OF BIRTH NEED A BEGINNING



What Does The Bible Teach Us About Man's Purpose?

The Bible teaches that we were created in the image of God. Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." But one may ask what is the image of God? Does it refer to a physical image? In Hosea 11:9, we read, "I 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." From this verse, we can see that God is not a man. Rather, in John 4:24, we read, "God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." How then were we created in the image of God? We were created to resemble God in moral aspects (in that we have an inner sense of what is right and wrong), in mental aspects (that we have the ability to think and reason logically), and relational aspects (that we have the ability to develop and maintain relationships with others). Most importantly however, because God is Spirit, we can have a spiritual relationship with Him. Due to this unique relationship between God and man, we are to be His co-regents in caring for the earth (Genesis 1:28).

How does sharing the image of God relate to man's purpose? The Bible teaches that our purpose on earth is to glorify God. This is a theme throughout the Bible and it is revealed in passages like Isaiah 43:7 ("Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him") and I Corinthians 10:31 ("Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God").

Conclusion

The historical view that God is eternal is more logical and clearly affirms the biblical understanding of who God says He is.

Produced by *R.M. SIRVILKA*

for **UTAH GOSPEL MISSION**

P.O. Box 780, VICTORVILLE, CA 92392.

CTRNOTLDS@JUNO.COM