



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Damned Deceptions:
Class 04
Who Is God?

Question?

If what you believed was wrong...
...Would you want to know it?

Perhaps a more important question
would be:

If being wrong could cost you
eternity...

...Would you want to know?

Tonight, we are going to examine
the concept of God

We will be looking at the God of
the Bible

We will be looking at the God of
the Latter Day Church

We will be looking at the God of
the Jehovah's Witnesses

If God is just an opinion, then it
really does not matter who is right

But if eternity is based upon a
legal contract written by God;

Then it is no longer a matter of
opinion

It is a matter of law.

When you are dealing with a
matter of law

Opinions no longer matter

Facts and what the law says
determines the verdict of the court

In that case, being right or wrong
does matter

It matters a great deal

The focus of this lesson is going to be the truth about God

When dealing with the Latter Day Church, we will be demonstrating the point that there is only one God

Ironically, when dealing with the Jehovah's Witnesses we will be demonstrating that this single God does, in fact, exist in three persons.

The Latter Day Church teaches that their God was once a human
And that Mormon human males can become God, themselves

**THE FOUNDATION OF
MORMON THEOLOGY**

**“As man is, God once was;
As God is, man may become”**

“...But I am learned and know more than all the world put together. The Holy Ghost does, anyhow, and He is within me, and comprehends more than all the world: and I will associate myself with Him.”

*Teaching of the Prophet Joseph
Smith 350*

The whole system of Mormon teaching can be summarized as:

- (1) there are many gods,
- (2) all gods are exalted men,
- (3) men may become gods,
- (4) and that men are embodied spirits that were born of god-parents in a previous existence

It is a basic premise of logic and debate that if you accept a person's premises; then you will be force to accept their conclusion

If you start with error, and build on error; the end result will also be in error

So I am rejecting the premises of Joseph Smith and all the teachings and doctrines that are built upon the error

Whether Joseph Smith was attempting to deceive his followers
Or if he himself was deceived by supernatural forces;
The end result is still deception

HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE

With other cults we have to establish that Jesus is God
Not so with the Mormons
They see Jesus as God
They see everyone as gods or potential gods if they are male

The Mormons recognize God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Ghost
Therefore they declare that they believe in the Trinity
But they do not believe the core teaching on the Trinity
The Three are One.

Mormon theology will take the various names and titles of God and teach that they are actually names for different gods

Deuteronomy 6:4:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD
[YHWH or Jehovah] our God
[Elohem] is one LORD [YHWH or
Jehovah]”

Elohem is NOT God’s name – it is
a title

Elohem is the Hebrew word for
plural Gods [Three or more]

Elohem – or the Trinity – is one
God

They teach that these are three
separate Gods

We hold that They are One God
with three distinct personages

They teach that every male can become God

“As man is, God once was...

As God is, man may become”

The Mormon male hopes to become an Exalted Male in the afterlife

This is the beginning of his Godhood

The best way to deal with this teaching is to go to Scriptures where God is speaking and let them read the verses for themselves

Have them explain to you what it means

They will try to get around the verses by claiming Elohem and Jesus are the only Gods that they have anything to do with

Sorry, that is not what the Bible said

Stress that that is not what the Scriptures are saying

There are no other Gods

It does not teach many gods but to ignore all of them except for Elohim and YHWH [Jesus]

There are no other Gods – PERIOD!

God does not know of any other gods – and He should know

And no gods were formed before or after God

At this point the interpretations are limited

Isaiah 43:10:

“You are my witnesses,’ says the Lord, ‘and my servant whom I have chosen: that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me”

This is God speaking through His prophet Isaiah

This is why God is saying this:

That you may know

That you may believe; and

That you may understand

What did God say?

“I am God”

“No gods were formed before me”

“No gods have been formed after me”

He is the only God – there are no other gods

ANYWHERE!

Isaiah 44:6:

“Thus says the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of hosts; ‘I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.’”

Both God the Father and God’s Redeemer [Jesus] claim to be the first and the last

Both declare that there is no other God

The Mormons may point out that there are two Gods in this verse speaking.

Point them back to Deuteronomy 6:4:

“Elohem [plural for Gods] is one”

Not three Gods, but One God in three personages

Two of the Trinity are speaking here
They are the first [the beginning]
and they are the last [the end]

There are no other Gods other than the Trinity

[Note: The Mormons teach the Holy Spirit is not the same as the Holy Ghost]

Isaiah 45:5 – 6:

“I am the Lord, and there is no one else, there is no God beside me: I girded you, though you have not known me;

That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is no one beside me. I am the Lord, and there is no one else.”

Who are they going to believe?
Joseph Smith?
Brigham Young?
Or God and what the Bible says

In response they will quote Psalm
82:6:
“I have said, ‘You are gods; and
all of you are children of the most
High’
The Bible does not contradict.
God has declared that there are
no other gods

The term for “gods” here is
Elohem.
This is a specific title for God.
It is not teaching many gods here
It is teaching that we represent
God [as His children] here on the
earth

Regarding other passages speaking about God and God being above all gods, the response is simple:

“Whatever you worship, becomes your god”

People worship many things, making them their gods

It does not mean that they are divine like God

The Nature of God

They Say: God, our Heavenly Father, is an exalted man of flesh and bone.

[Doctrine & Covenants 130:22]

The Bible Says: God is a Spirit

John 4:24:

“God is a Spirit: and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

To Support their doctrine, Mormons will quote numerous verses:

Isaiah 5:25:

“Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against His people, and He has stretched forth His hand against them...”

Mormons will declare that God has a hand, therefore He has a body

Psalm 33:18:

“Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope in His mercy; ”

Mormons will note that God has an eye; therefore God has a body

Psalm 89:13: (Speaking of God)

“You have a mighty arm: strong is your hand, and high is your right hand”

Mormons will point out God has an arm and a hand.

Therefore, God has a physical body

Psalm 18:8 (Speaking of God):

“There went up a smoke out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.”

Here God has both a nose and a mouth

Therefore, God has a physical body

Psalm 18:9 (Speaking of God):
“He bowed the heavens also, and
came down: and darkness was
under His feet.”
God has feet
Therefore, God has a physical
body

Ask them to read Psalm 91:4:
“He shall cover you with His
feathers, and under His wings
shall you trust...”
Ask them if this means that God is
also a chicken
They will agree God is not a
chicken

Have them read John 10:9:
“I am the door: by me if any man
enter in, he shall be saved, and shall
go in and out, and find pasture.”
Ask them if Jesus is now made of
wood, has hinges and a doorknob
They will admit Jesus is not made of
wood

Have them read John 6:35:

“And Jesus said unto them, ‘I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall never hunger; and he who believes on me shall never thirst.’”

Do they believe that Jesus is really a loaf of bread?

They do not believe that Jesus is really a loaf of bread

Have them read John 15:5:

“I am the vine, you are the branches: He who abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.”

Do they believe that Jesus grows from the ground and has grapes hanging on Him?

Of course not!

Why?

Because these are all figurative expressions

The author is using figurative language to describe some aspect of God and Jesus

The same is true concerning these reference to body parts belonging to God

It is figurative, not literal

How do we know?

Because Jesus told us in John 4:24:

“God is a Spirit: and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

If anyone would know the truth concerning who and what God is, it would be Jesus, His Son

So that is what the Latter Day Church believes concerning God
Now, what about the teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses?

Deity – The Father alone is God, and true worshipers must call Him by His true name – *Jehovah*.
Witnesses are taught that Jesus is merely a manifestation of Michael the Archangel in human form – not God, but merely a created being.

John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His Only *Begotten* Son; that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

Deity (Continued) – The Holy Spirit is presented as neither God nor a person, but rather as an “active force.”

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is neither God nor a person according to Watchtower teaching. “It” is simply an impersonal “active force” that God uses in doing His Will.

John 14:16:

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever.”

John 15:13:

“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you in all truth; for He will not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, that will He speak, and He will show you things to come.”

John 15:14:

“He shall glorify me, for He shall receive of mine and show it to you.”

A point of contention with the Jehovah's Witnesses deals with the name of God.

They believe that there is a True Name for God

They believe that God's True Name is Jehovah

Jehovah is the only name they will recognize for God.

Exodus 3:13:

Moses asked God to give him His name to prove he was sent by God

"Who shall I say sent me?"

This was the perfect opportunity for God to reveal His true name – the name He wanted to be known as to all people

What name did God give Moses?

Exodus 3:14:

"And God said unto Moses, 'I AM THAT I AM.'" and He said, "Thus shall you say to the Children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me unto you.'"

Notice what else God said about this name over all other names

Exodus 3:15:

“And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shall you say unto the Children of Israel, ‘The Lord God of your fathers...has sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.’”

This is God’s name forever and ever

This means it will never change

This name is an everlasting memorial God has chosen for Himself

He chose I AM, not Jehovah

The Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that God the Father, and only God the Father is God

Where they miss the mark is the concept of the Trinity

They downgrade Jesus to the Archangel Michael

They make the Holy Spirit an impersonal force
I've shown how Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as more than an impersonal force
Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a person

So let me spend a little time addressing if Jesus is God or not
I want to use an argument presented by C. S. Lewis
It is called the *Liar, Lunatic or Lord Position*.

This argument focuses on what Jesus had to say about Himself
There are those who claim that Jesus never claimed to be God
If that is true then Jesus is not God
After all, He said so

But, if Jesus claimed to be God
we are now in the position of
having only three options
concerning Jesus

If Jesus claimed to be God and
He knew that He was not God;
then Jesus was a liar
If Jesus is a liar; then we cannot
trust anything He says
He is not a good man
He is not a great teacher
He is a liar

If Jesus claimed to be God and
was not God
And He did not have enough
grasp of reality to realize that He
was not God
Then He was a lunatic
And, again, we cannot trust
anything He said

But if Jesus claimed that He was
God,
And He is God;
Then we must worship Him
And we must believe what He
says
Because He would be our Lord

So the focus on this session is not
what the Latter Day Church Says
about Jesus
Nor do we care what the
Jehovah's Witnesses say about
Jesus
We need to look at what Jesus
says about Himself

This can involve direct comments
Jesus made
It can be demonstrated in things
He did or what He allowed
It can involve indirect statements
He made

In the end, the truth that we are looking for is what did Jesus claim to be

That will then limit us to three options about who He is and if we can trust Him

John put it this way

There is only one question that really matters when it comes to Jesus: I John 4:1 – 3:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but [test] the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets [have] gone out into the world...”

I John 4:2:

“...[This is how you can know] the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh [is God born into the human race] is of God...”

I John 4:3:

“...And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh [is God born into the human race] is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

The Latter Day Church and the Jehovah’s Witnesses cannot be wrong about whether Jesus is God and be correct in all their other teachings.

The source of all their other teachings is called into question if they are wrong about this.

The test for whether something is of God is what they teach about Jesus Christ.

To “come in the flesh” refers to the Incarnation.

More specifically that Jesus is God become human through the Virgin Birth

This should always be the first test

If they pass this first test, then we shall move to the next, and then the next

At some point the difference in doctrine become immaterial and should not create any issue or division.

The arguments for Jesus to be God are several:

Prophecy teaches Jesus is God

Jesus used titles to refer to Himself that are reserved only for God

Jesus claimed to be equal to God

Jesus accepts worship reserved only for God

Jesus claims power and authority reserved only for God

Jesus:

Directly claimed to be God

Indirectly claimed to be God

Spoke as if He were God

Did what only God was permitted
to do

Accepted worship that was only to
be given to God

When I wrote my book, "Contract
Written in Blood" I did an entire
chapter on proof that Jesus was
God

I used each of the examples I just
mentioned

This became the longest chapter
in the book

Let me touch on just three or four
examples of Jesus claiming to be
God

Technically, I only need one claim
to activate the Liar, Lunatic or
Lord Position

Our first example of Jesus claiming to be God comes from Matthew 9:2 – 7

Here a man who is paralyzed is lowered through the roof
Jesus looks on the man and says, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The Pharisees identify the problem instantly:
“No man can forgive sins, but God.”

In other words, by claiming to forgive this man’s sins; Jesus just claimed to be God

Jesus was assuming authority that only belonged to God
So Jesus then put His authority to the test

“Which is easier?
Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’
Or to say ‘Rise up and walk’?”

So to prove that Jesus had the authority to forgive sins, He said to the paralyzed man, "Take up your bed and walk." And he did At a meal with Pharisees later, Jesus would forgive the sins of a woman.

These are indirect claims by Jesus to be God But Jesus accepted worship which was reserved only for God By accepting this worship, He was claiming to those around Him that He was God

1. A leper worshiped Him (Matthew 8:2);
2. A ruler bowed before Him in worship (Matthew 9:18);
3. A blind man worshiped Him (John 9:38);
4. A woman worshiped Him (Matthew 15:25);

5. Mary Magdalene worshiped Him (Matthew 28:9);

6. The disciples worshiped Him (Matthew 28:17)

But there was one specific time when His declaration was so clear that the Pharisees tried to stone Him for it

John 10:30:

“I and my Father are one.”

Now Cults claim that Jesus said, “I and my Father are one in nature.”

That is not what the Bible says

To understand what Jesus was really saying pay attention to the Pharisees. John 10:31:
“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.”

These people heard Jesus in the original language He spoke in
They spoke in that language, too
Nothing was lost in the translation
They heard and they knew exactly what Jesus was claiming

John 10:31:
“Jesus answered them and said, ‘Many good works have I shown you from my Father; for which of these works do you stone me?’”

John 10:32:

“The Jews answered Him saying,
‘For a good work we stone you
not, but for blasphemy; and
because you being a man make
yourself God.’”

With this statement of Jesus and
God the Father being one, Jesus
made the clearest declaration that
He was God

This activates the Liar, Lunatic or
Lord Position.
He cannot be one of God’s
spiritual sons
He cannot be the Archangel
Michael
He cannot be just a good teacher
He cannot be a moral man

He has claimed to be God
He is either a liar
He is a lunatic
Or He is who He claims to be
He is God

With this statement I John 4:1 – 3
is activated.
We are called upon to test the
spirits
To see which kind of spirits they
are

If the source of your spiritual
information declares that Jesus is
God who has become flesh and
has lived among us
Then this spiritual source is from
God and can be trusted

If your spiritual source claims that
Jesus is not God who has
become flesh and lived among us
Then this source is from Satan
and Antichrist
It cannot be trusted

Nothing that comes from this
second spiritual source can be
trusted – ever!
If this spiritual source is wrong
about this
They are potentially wrong about
everything else

The Latter Day Church does not
teach that Jesus is God
They demote Him to one of many
spirit babies
They make Him the result of sex
between the Mormon God and
Mary
They cannot be trusted

The Jehovah's Witnesses make
Jesus the Archangel Michael who
was transformed into human
According to the Jehovah's
Witnesses, when he died on the
cross, he reverted back to being
the Archangel Michael
He was not God
This spiritual source cannot be
trusted

The True God has revealed
Himself through the Bible
This is His revealing of Himself to
us
He is telling us who and what He
is

He has always existed
He will always exist
He is spirit
He is righteous
He is love
He is sinless
He is a Triune God – a Trinity

He is the Creator
He is the Law Giver
He is the judge
He is the Redeemer

Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit existed together
There was no God before them
There is no God after them
Jesus separated as a spirit from the Godhead
And was born into the human race via a Virgin Birth

He became related to the human race by birth
He lived a sinless death
He died upon a cross to pay for our sins
He rose from the dead in the same body He was crucified in

He returned to Heaven where He sits on the right hand of God
He will remain human throughout all eternity

The Holy Spirit is a person
He can think, and speak, and act
He is the third person of the Trinity
He is spirit
He is equal to God the Father and Jesus the Son

If these Cults cannot get the basic details correct about God
Especially when God has taken the time and effort to write down and reveal who and what He is to us

How can we trust them with any other information about:

Jesus

The Holy Spirit

Heaven

Hell

Salvation

The Bible is God's personal revelation of Himself to us
It has been around much longer than:

The Book of Mormon

Doctrines and Covenant

Pearl of Great Price

The New World Translation

You test the new revelation from God by the first revelation of God

We have done just that

The new Revelations presented by the Latter Day Church and the Jehovah's Witnesses do not pass the test

They need to be rejected
And we need to embrace God's
first revelation of Himself
The Holy Bible

QUESTIONS


