

## God Never Sinned IR Harvey

In the pre-endowment temple ceremony, Lucifer attempts to convince Eve to partake of his forbidden fruit by telling her that this is the way God obtained his knowledge. It is no sacred matter to protect Lucifer's lying words by not talking about this contextual presentation in the Temple. Lucifer's words are neither sacred nor secret. What about this particular lie, though, is so delicious to the taste and very desirable?

Lorenzo Snow was an early supporter of the Adam-God Doctrine that split the councils of the Brethren. Some found it distasteful and repugnant. Others found it appealing. In a summary oversimplification, the basis of the doctrine held that because mortality was necessary for having children, God Himself (himself a resurrected being who was Father of our Spirits) came down as Adam, took the fruit of mortality with one of his wives, enabled children and returned to His Heavenly home, later coming down to overshadow Mary and beget the Savior. Long years of denial of the doctrine and suppression of discussion that it happened were followed by years of purging its adherents. (see Buerger, The Adam-God Doctrine, Dialogue v15 #1, 1976, p.34)

Unfortunately, related key elements of the doctrine did persist. Principal was the notion that God Himself once partook of a mortality-enabling fruit in order to enable his own progeny. The deliciousness of the doctrine was in the notion that we are following the same process God followed, in order to become divine like Him. It is apparently quite attractive and reassuring to consider that our own path to wisdom and understanding through the making of mistakes that includes sin, is not only what we are experiencing, but is in fact the divinely designed and intended path for becoming like God. "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become"

Inconveniently, the entire first half of the famous couplet is false. It is repeatedly foisted upon our consciousness every time we attend the temple and we hear Lucifer tell us with great conviction "You must partake of this fruit, for that is the way Father obtained His knowledge." This lie is intended by the Father of Lies to deceive and to defraud.

Deception comes from the notion that God is keeping a dirty little secret from us, and that Lucifer is doing us a large favor in revealing that to us.

The defrauding aspect is the basis that God is somehow a duplicitous being: That He would command righteousness on the one hand, and on the other expect and even require disobedience. That he would speak one thing in commandment but intend the opposite. In the face of Lucifer's deceitful manipulation, it is left to us to decide for ourselves: Who shall we decide to believe? Lucifer as did Eve and then Adam? Or shall we break from tradition and choose to believe God at face value, and reject all the false assertions of Lucifer?

There are many reasons to cite scripture and flay Lucifer's claim that God was once sinful, based on the known, accepted, taught, eternally righteous nature of God. But there is only one witness necessary to lay the doctrine bare as utterly false. In 5: 19, 20 In these verses, the Savior clearly attributes his own ability to live a perfect, unblemished life to the visions He had been given of His own Father, having done precisely the same.