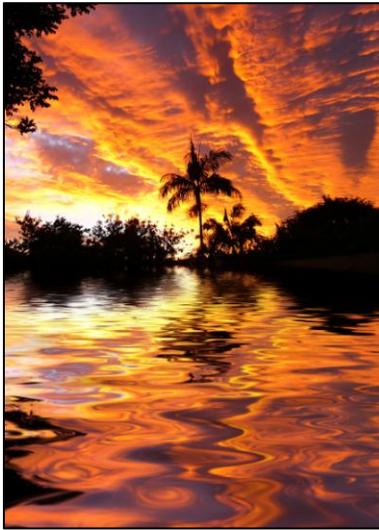


The Creation

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The doctrine on the creation arises from the doctrine of the premortal existence (see the Sword Series™ essay on the premortal existence). Understanding the linkage of the creation to the premortal existence is essential to fully comprehending the Christian doctrine of the creation.

Premortal Existence and the Creation

We lived as spirit children with our heavenly parents and were told about the plan of our Heavenly Father. This plan called for us, his children, to follow him and become more like him. This is similar to the way of a wise child on earth, following and seeking to become more like a righteous biological parent.

Can we not envision our premortal joy in the counsels of heaven as we heard about this plan (Job 38:7)? In order to fulfill this plan there needed to be a place for us to be tried, to gain experience, and to become more like our Heavenly Father. This would take place in a state called mortality in the physical surroundings of earth. Understanding the Christian doctrine of creation gives one expanded understanding of our own purpose here on earth. This expanded understanding is not only comforting, it is essential.

Jesus the Creator

Jesus Christ created the earth and all that is upon it (plants, animals, seas, and all else), while having created many other worlds in the process (sun, moon, stars, and other material things that constitute the universe). Jesus performed the creation, which was done spiritually before being executed physically, through the power of priesthood and by delegation from God the Father. Paul wrote concerning Jesus the creator in his letter to the Ephesians: "...which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Eph 3:9).

The Creation of Man and Woman

After the creation of the physical environments, and the creation of all non-human creatures, the Lord accomplished the greatest of all creations—mankind. Mankind, both man and woman, were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26) with spirits clothed in bodies of flesh and blood. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman to be put upon the earth, physically patterned after our heavenly parents whom we left in the premortal existence.

Our bodies are created in the physical as well as the spiritual image and likeness of God. This doctrine is consistent with the definition of image and is supported by a number of scriptural passages. Consider Genesis 9:6 which accentuates the physical likeness as part of that image in stating: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Other scriptures of interest include Exodus 24:10, and Acts 7:55-56.

Heavenly Parents

Another doctrine that is often overlooked in Christianity is the concept of "heavenly parents." There are no scriptural references referring to a Heavenly Mother, but knowing the eternal importance of families how can one dismiss the idea? Consider the scripture from Ephesians 3: 14-15: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the *whole family* in heaven and earth is named" (emphasis added).

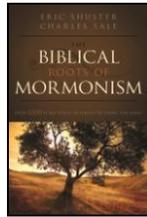
Heavenly Father intended to provide for each of us a mother and father in mortality, and if things are to be on earth as they are in heaven, then the notion of there being a Heavenly Mother is not difficult to embrace.

Conclusion

The earth was created for all of us as God's children as a place to learn and progress in mortality. Jesus, under the guidance of our Heavenly Father and through the priesthood, created the earth and all that is in it—including man, who is created in the image of God.

About The Sword Series™

The Sword Series™ is a collection of Christian theological essays that are freely distributed for the education and enjoyment of all. These essays later inspired the book *The Biblical Roots of Mormonism* by Eric Shuster (2010). The views expressed in the Sword Series™ are those of Eric Shuster based upon his study and understanding of the scriptures under the influence of the Holy Ghost. All formatted content in this paper is the property of Eric Shuster and may be distributed freely. Any modification of the content of this paper without the express written consent of Eric Shuster is prohibited. Copyright 2008 ©



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The Foundation for Christian Studies is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, teaching, and practice of Christianity with an emphasis on the doctrines and principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormonism).