

The Atonement of Jesus Christ



What, then, is the
condescension of God? As I
understand the definition of
condescension, it is the act
of descending to a lower and
less dignified state; of
waiving the privileges of
one's rank and status; of
bestowing honors and favors
upon one of lesser stature or
status.



Bruce R. McConkie
"Behold the
Condescension of God,"
New Era, December 1984,
34-39.

So if we are going to speak of the condescension of God, meaning that of our Eternal Father, we must first know the nature and kind of being he is. We must come to know the dignity and majesty and glory that attend him, of the things that he had and is doing for us and for all his children and in all eternity among all his creations



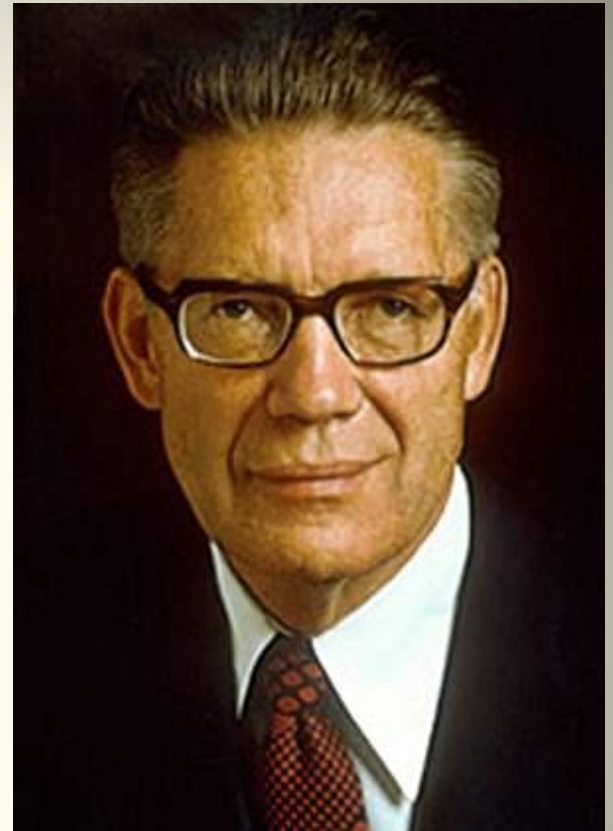
Bruce R. McConkie
"Behold the
Condescension of God,"
New Era, December 1984,
34-39.

Thus the condescension of God is that he is the Father literally of a Son born in mortality, in the language here, a Son born “after the manner of the flesh..... Now we are all the spirit children of this glorious and omnipotent being. We dwelt with him for an infinite period of time in the premortal life.



Bruce R. McConkie
“Behold the
Condescension of God,”
New Era, December 1984,
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We were trained and prepared and made ready to come here for this mortal probation, and we have come as the children of mortal parents. But there is one person, one~person only—and that was his firstborn spirit offspring, the Lord Jehovah—.



Bruce R. McConkie
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—who was destined to come into mortality with God our Father, an immortal person, as the parent of his mortal body, and, of course, with Mary, a mortal individual, as the mother of his mortal body. The angel, having manifested this truth about the condescension of God the Father to Nephi,



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then shows him added material, added visions, and comes again to the matter of divine condescension. He says: “Look and behold the condescension of God!” (see 1 Ne. 11:26). And this time he is talking about the condescension of Christ the Son, and not God the Father....



Bruce R. McConkie
“Behold the
Condescension of God,”
New Era, December 1984,
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Now we have a second matter relative to Deity's condescension. This time it is the fact that Christ elected, chose, and volunteered to come into the world and be born as God's Son, undergo the mortal probation and ministry assigned him, and then climax it with the working out of the infinite and eternal atoning sacrifice.



Bruce R. McConkie
"Behold the
Condescension of God,"
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“That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance with a higher manifestation thereof; ... In His nature would be combined the powers of Godhood with the capacity and possibilities of mortality; and this through the ordinary operation of the fundamental law of heredity,



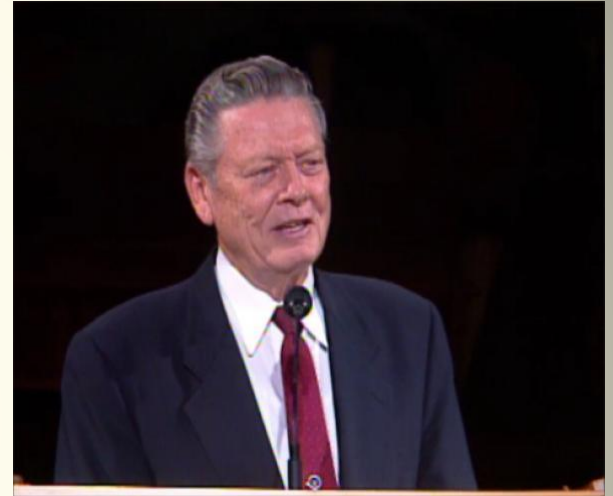
James E. Talmage
Jesus the Christ, 3rd ed.
1916, 81.

declared of God,
demonstrated by science,
and admitted by philosophy,
that living beings shall
propagate—after their kind.
The Child Jesus was to
inherit the physical, mental,
and spiritual traits,
tendencies, and powers that
characterized His parents—
one immortal and
glorified—God, the other
human—woman”



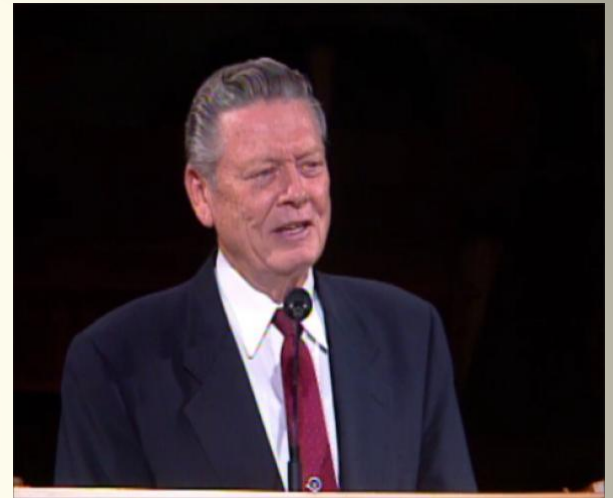
James E. Talmage
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1916, 81.

“The divine Sonship of Jesus Christ ... is central to understanding the entire plan of salvation. He is the First Begotten Son of the Father in the premortal existence and the Only Begotten Son of the Father on earth. God the Eternal Father is the literal parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of His other spirit children. ...



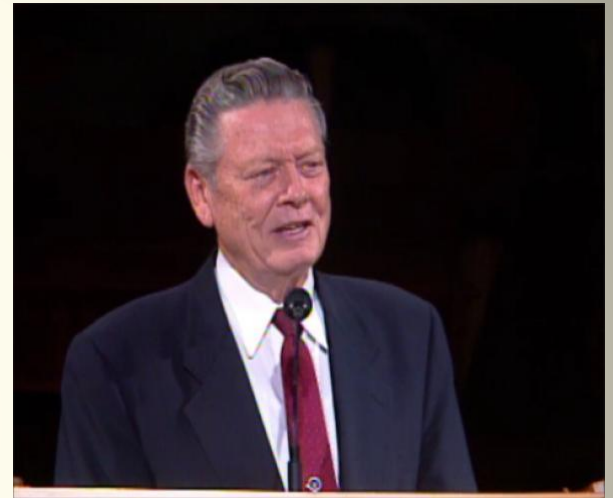
Robert E. Wells
“Our Message to the World,”
General Conference,
October 1995

The ‘divine Sonship’ also refers to the designation ‘Only Begotten Son in the flesh.’ ... This title signifies that Jesus’ physical body was the offspring of a mortal mother and of an immortal Eternal Father, which verity is crucial to the Atonement, a supreme act that could not have been accomplished by an ordinary man.



Robert E. Wells
“Our Message to the World,”
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Christ had power to lay down His life and power to take it again because He had inherited immortality from His Heavenly Father. From Mary, His mother, Christ inherited mortality, or the power to die. This infinite atonement of Christ and Christ's divine Sonship go together hand in hand to form the single most important doctrine of all Christianity”



Robert E. Wells
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Without a doubt, Jesus came into the world subject to the same condition as was required for each of us – he forgot everything, and he had to grow from grace to grace. His forgetting, or having his former knowledge taken away, would be requisite just as it is in the case of each of us, to complete the temporal existence.



Joseph Fielding Smith, photo © Merrett Smith

Joseph Fielding Smith
Doctrines of Salvation, 1:33

When Jesus was born, the veil of forgetfulness common to all who are born to earth, by which the remembrance of primeval existence is shut off, was cast over him. In the premortal world, Jesus had stood as “one like unto God,” (Abraham 3:24), “more intelligent than they all” (Abraham 3:19), meaning all the other created spirits.



James E. Talmage
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But although his capacity was greater than that of any other, and he was designated to become the Only Begotten Son of God in the flesh, still he was meek and humble, and he condescended to have a veil cast over him and to have the knowledge of his glory and power in premortality blocked from his mind at birth.



James E. Talmage
Jesus the Christ, 111