Adam and Eve LDS Church

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*See also:*[*Adam and Eve*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_and_Eve)

[The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) (LDS Church) teaches that **Adam and Eve** were the first man and the first woman to live on the earth and that their [fall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_man) was an essential step in the [plan of salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_of_salvation_(Latter_Day_Saints)). [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam) in particular is a central figure in [Mormon cosmology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormon_cosmology). [Robert L. Millet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_L._Millet), an LDS author, wrote of his perspective:

Few persons in all eternity have been more directly involved in the plan of salvation—the creation, the fall, and the ultimate redemption of the children of God—than the man Adam. His ministry among the sons and daughters of earth stretches from the distant past of pre-mortality to the distant future of resurrection, judgment, and beyond.

Identity of Adam and Eve

According to LDS Church teachings, all people born on the earth lived with [God the Father](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_the_Father) and [Jesus Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Christ) in a [pre-mortal life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-existence). Adam and Eve were "among our Father's noblest children" and they were "foreordained" to be the parents of the human race. In the pre-mortal life, Adam was the [archangel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archangel) [Michael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_(archangel)). As Michael, Adam "led the forces of God against the armies of Lucifer" in the [War in Heaven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Heaven). LDS Church [scripture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Works) provides no information about [Eve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eve) prior to her earth life, but it is believed that "she must have been a choice daughter of God".

In the LDS Church's [temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_(LDS_Church)) [endowment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endowment_(Mormonism)), it is taught that Adam is Michael and that he assisted Jehovah in the [creation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genesis_creation_narrative).

In the Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve's bodies were created by [God the Father](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_the_Father) and [Jesus Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Christ) and were placed in the [Garden of Eden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_of_Eden), which [Joseph Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith) taught was located in or near [Jackson County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackson_County,_Missouri), [Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri). When they were created, their bodies were [not mortal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immortality) and they could not die or have children, and they did not know right from wrong.

God commanded Adam and Eve to have children, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over … every living thing that moveth upon the earth". God told them they could eat of any tree in the garden except for the [tree of the knowledge of good and evil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_of_the_knowledge_of_good_and_evil), and that the day they ate the fruit from that tree they would die. Adam was made “lord or governor of all things on earth, and at the same time [enjoyed] communion … with his Maker, without a veil [[*sic*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sic)] to separate between.”

Fall

*See also:*[*Fall of man*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_man)

[Satan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satan) tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the prohibited fruit. Eve yielded to temptation and ate of the fruit; when Adam learned that Eve had done so, he ate the fruit too.

Because they ate of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve underwent the "fall". As God had promised, the bodies of Adam and Eve became mortal and they became subject to physical death, as well as sickness and pain. Erastus Snow taught that the fruits of the Earth literally made Adam and Eve's bodies mortal. They also underwent "spiritual death": they were separated from the presence of God by being cast out of the Garden of Eden. Due to the fall, Adam and Eve also came to know the difference between good and evil and became capable of having children, as God had originally commanded.

**Positive interpretation of the fall**

Unlike some [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian), [Latter-day Saints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter-day_Saint) generally do not see the fall of Adam and Eve as a serious [sin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin) or as an overwhelmingly negative event. Rather, the fall is viewed as "a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all of us. Because of the Fall, we are blessed with physical bodies, the right to choose between good and evil, and the opportunity to gain eternal life. None of these privileges would have been ours had Adam and Eve remained in the garden." Latter-day Saint scripture reports that Adam and Eve later rejoiced that they had chosen to partake of the fruit, and the [Book of Mormon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Mormon) teaches that the fall was necessary for humankind to exist and for them to develop and eventually experience joy, which is the ultimate purpose of existence: "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." Furthermore, the LDS version of the fall of Adam and Eve emphasizes the fall was a part of God's plan: "But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things," as God had "foreordained" and prepared Jesus Christ to be slain "from the foundation of the world" in order to redeem mankind from the fall. In the early church, the idea that Eve's promised hardships were passed on to all women was commonly accepted. Valerie Cassler argues that God's description of her future hardships was not a curse, but a natural consequence that comes from living in a world with opposites.

The fall of Adam and Eve as viewed by Latter-day Saints denies the concept of [original sin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Original_sin). They instead believe that "little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in [Jesus Christ]." [Joseph Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith) also stated that "men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression." Latter-day Saint doctrine holds firm that through repentance, Adam and Eve were eventually forgiven of their transgression in Eden.

Post-fall lives

Latter-day Saint scripture teaches that Adam and Eve had "sons and daughters" after the fall, including [Cain, Abel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cain_and_Abel) and [Seth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seth). Orson Pratt taught that God married Adam and Eve.: Adam and Eve worshiped God, offered [animal sacrifices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_sacrifice), and were taught by an [angel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel) about [Jesus Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Christ). Latter-day Saint doctrine teaches that the "coats of skins" Adam and Eve received were to remind them of the coming of Jesus Christ who, through the [atonement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atonement_in_Christianity), would "cover their sins". Adam is believed to be "the world's first Christian," as well as the first prophet. Adam was taught the [plan of salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_of_salvation_(Latter_Day_Saints)), was [baptized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptism_(Latter_Day_Saints)) in water in the name of Jesus Christ, received the [gift of the Holy Ghost](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confirmation_(Latter_Day_Saints)), and was given the [Melchizedek priesthood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melchizedek_priesthood_(Latter_Day_Saints)). Adam ordained his descendants to the priesthood, including [Seth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seth), [Enos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enos_(Bible)), [Cainan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenan), [Mahalaleel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahalalel), [Jared](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jared_(ancestor_of_Noah)), [Enoch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enoch_(ancestor_of_Noah)), and [Methuselah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methuselah).

Three years prior to his death, Adam and his righteous posterity gathered in the valley of [Adam-ondi-Ahman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam-ondi-Ahman) in present-day [Daviess County, Missouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daviess_County,_Missouri), where Adam and Eve had settled after being expelled from the Garden of Eden. At this meeting, Adam bestowed his last blessing on his descendants. [Jesus Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_Christ) appeared at the meeting to bless Adam and Adam uttered prophecies, which are said to have been recorded by Enoch. Adam died when he was 930 years old.

Visions and prophecies about Adam and Eve

Some [presidents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_Church_(LDS_Church)) of the LDS Church report to have had [visions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vision_(spirituality)) of Adam and Eve. In 1836, [Joseph Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith) said that he saw Adam in the [celestial kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestial_kingdom) and in 1918 [Joseph F. Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_F._Smith) said that he saw Adam and Eve in the world of spirits when Jesus visited there between his death and [resurrection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection). Joseph Smith also said that the voice of Adam was heard near the [Susquehanna River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susquehanna_River) "detecting the devil when he appeared as an angel of light".

Joseph Smith prophesied that Adam would one day return to [Adam-ondi-Ahman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam-ondi-Ahman) "to visit his people". Thousands will attend this meeting with Adam, which will be prior to and in preparation of the [Second Coming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Coming) of Jesus. Adam is believed to be the "[Ancient of Days](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_of_Days)" prophesied of in the [Book of Daniel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Daniel). At the Second Coming, Adam will "sound his trump", which will signal the [resurrection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection) of the dead. At the end of the [millennial rule of Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennialism), Adam will lead the forces of good against [Satan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satan) in the final "battle of the great God", also known as the battle of [Gog and Magog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gog_and_Magog).

One LDS Church [apostle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostle_(Latter_Day_Saints)) has suggested that it may have been Adam who was sent as the angel Michael to "strengthen" Jesus when he was praying in the [Garden of Gethsemane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_of_Gethsemane) during his [passion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passion_(Christianity)).

Adam–God doctrine

*Main article:*[*Adam–God doctrine*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%E2%80%93God_doctrine)

Several early leaders of the church taught that Adam was God because He was the father of the human race. This doctrine was taught several times by Brigham Young during [general conferences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Conference_(LDS_Church)) and was supported by other high-ranking leaders of the church. However, the Adam–God doctrine never gained wide support by the church as a whole. Some members and critics of the church claimed that Young was declaring Adam to be [God the Father](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_the_Father). This specific interpretation was later repudiated by church president [Spencer W. Kimball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencer_W._Kimball).