



### 3 Nephi 1. <sup>13-14</sup>— Meditation

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<sup>13</sup>Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. <sup>14</sup>Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men from the foundation of the world, and to do the will, both of the Father and of the Son—of the Father because of me, and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

“On the morrow come *I* into the world.” Thus spoke Jesus. Did he speak this from his mother’s womb only hours before his birth? Or did he speak it out of the midst of his heavenly throne room? I, for one, do not know. I cannot comprehend the incarnation of God. I do not know how the “Godhead” operates. Nobody, I assert, does. There is far too much arrogance about it though. I do know that.

But that the “I” in this reading is Jesus seems clear. So too is the “Me.” Jesus that is. And both the “I” and the “Me” are at the time of the announcement a disembodied God. He has been the “God” of the Book of Mormon from its start. The God of the Book of Mormon was God before the little band of Israelites ever left Jerusalem. Before the Book of Mormon was even in glimmer in Nephi’s eye. This God, God of the Old Testament, was named Yahweh. So, the “I” that is coming into the world on the morrow is, apparently, Jesus/God/Yahweh.

As the disembodied Yahweh, he is “Father.” When God/Yahweh/Father enters a mortal tabernacle, he will become God/Jesus/Son.” It is all beyond confusing, really. One simply must remain humble about it all. But this much is clear. Jesus, by whatever name, was an extraordinary man. Scripture claims that he was more than this. That he was an extraordinary God. A God who, somehow, willingly left the divine realms to, somehow, become mortal. A God who, somehow, felt totally and comfortably connected to humankind. A God who, somehow, by any means possible, wished to reveal his commitment to humankind, its redemption, and its advancement.

Here, at least, we must throw caution to the wind and testify that God, by whatever name, is and was and always will be a Being who is committed and dedicated to the advancement of others, whatever the cost to him and however unworthy they may seem of such dedication, and however incomprehensible it may all seem.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*(edition: October 24, 2024)*