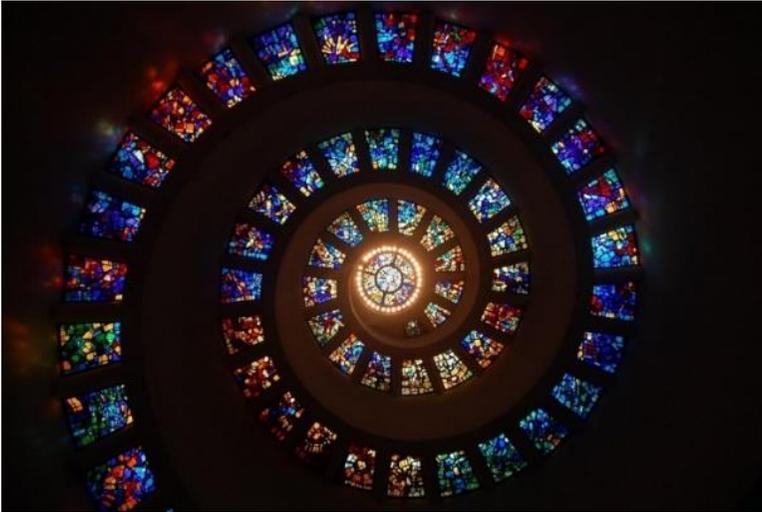


Plan of Salvation

Study Notes



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PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO GOD'S PLAN & PRE-MORALITY



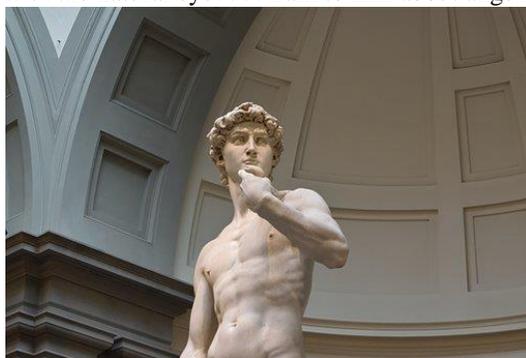
Introduction to the Plan of Salvation

The scriptures say that a study of the Plan of Salvation is the 1st thing to learn, even before the commandments. God's Plan motivates us to repent of our sins, and become saints. The Plan of Salvation is a journal of pre-mortal life, all the way through the various stages of existence until the station of God himself. God has passed through a similar journey to which we are now passing. As his children, we do what He did, and hope to someday be as He is. Jesus Christ is the central figure of God's plan as the chose Savior of the human race. This however does not eliminate our individual responsibility, but directs and enlivens it. Enjoy studying with me the roles of faith and works, the attributes of God and man, the central role of the family, and many other exciting components of God's happy plan for us.

"When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, he begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to him, he is ready to come to us." -Joseph Smith

"How difficult it is to teach the natural man, who comprehends nothing more than that which he sees with the natural eye! . . . Talk to him about angels, heavens, God, immortality, and eternal lives, and it is like sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal to his ears; it has no music to him; there is nothing in it that charms his senses, soothes his feelings, attracts his attention, or engages his affections, in the least."

(Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses (18



December 1859) 1:2; see also Discourses of Brigham Young (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1954), 260.)

"... Men are in the habit, when the truth is exhibited by the servants of God, of saying, All is mystery; they have spoken in parables, and, therefore, are not to be understood. It is true they have eyes to see, and see not, but none are so blind as those who will not see; and, although the Savior spoke this to such characters, yet unto His disciples he expounded it plainly; and we have reason to be truly humble before the God of our fathers, that He hath left these things on record for us, so plain, that notwithstanding the exertions and combined influence of the priests of Baal, they have not power to blind our eyes, and darken our understanding, if we will but open our eyes, and read with candor,

for a moment.” (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 2:265–66; from a letter from Joseph Smith to the elders of the Church, Dec. 1835, Kirtland, Ohio, published in Messenger and Advocate, Dec. 1835, pp. 225–26.)
(https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-25?lang=eng#7-36481_000_029)(Chapter 25: Truths from the Savior’s Parables in Matthew 13, Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, (2011), 292–305)

I Believe: Part 1 Overview

I believe the human race is watched over by a divine all-powerful corporal being dwelling on his home planet. I believe that this man, our **Father in Heaven**, is perfectly compassionate and wise, and possesses all joy, knowledge, and power. I believe we **lived with our Father in Heaven** for a very long time as intelligent spirits before we came to this earth. The intelligent self-possessed core of each individual person has always existed and will never cease to exist. When we came to earth we were given bodies, and though those bodies will expire for a season, they will return and be an essential component of life in eternity. Father has made arrangements for the entire human race to eventually overcome physical death in a universal reconstitution (resurrection) of our bodies, and that this will take place at a point in time in the near future. I believe that when the resurrection happens, we will continue as intelligent corporal beings indefinitely, just like our Father in Heaven. I believe that the power of intellect and the corporal body will be greatly expanded at that time, especially for those who have sought to align their lives with eternal laws.

I believe that our **Heavenly Father is the prototype** of the majesty of an exalted being, and that in the mortal ministry of Heavenly Father's most advanced son, a divine being named Jesus Christ, we see the prototype of how to become like our Father in Heaven. I believe that our Father in Heaven created this earth to aid us in our quest to become as he is, given that said quest entails the reception of bodies and the acquisition of experience therein.

I believe that because of the benevolent government of our Father in Heaven, we are **free to make choices**. I believe that laws which govern the universe will dictate the consequences of those choices. I believe our Father in Heaven's laws are the same as the eternal laws of the universe, and his compliance to these laws gives him maximum power and authority. I believe that our Father in Heaven has, in every generation, made us aware of these eternal laws. Father taught us eternal divine law face to face in the pre-mortal existence, and now teaches us through the operation of conscience, angels, and prophets.

I believe that our Father in Heaven has created an **immense number of planets**, many of which he has tailored, through specific astronomical arrangements, to suite human life. I believe these planets serve the same purpose to others of Father's children as our earth does for us. Father's desires for the complete progress of his children are universal and apply to each of us individually. I believe that our Father in Heaven has power over all his operations which affect us, and that he allows us to have the agency to make our own moral choices. Though eventual punishments and rewards will be allotted to us from Father for

our choices, we are free to decide how we will act. In that punishments and rewards are not immediate in this life, our time on earth is a test.

I believe that to make mercy available to us, Father in Heaven directed his most advanced son, a divine being named **Jesus Christ**, to perform a vicarious atonement in our behalf. I believe that everyone, even those who feel weak unclean or simple, can become like our Father in Heaven as they sincerely attempt to make good choices today, and, when they understand and believe in the role of Jesus Christ, access his assistance.

I believe our **families are a prototype** of the lifestyle of our Father in Heaven, intended to exist indefinitely and grow exponentially unendingly. I believe that sexual relations outside of a marriage between a man & woman are not in keeping with the laws of life, and do not contribute to the progress of our species, nor the individual development of the individual eternal soul. Celibacy or ideological rejection of marriage and childbearing cut a person off from their potential to become like our heavenly parents.

I believe it is a moral obligation of all people to **seek and share knowledge**. Further we uphold proper government which protects people in their basic needs while allowing them freedom to enjoy growth in the direction of their choice. I believe it is the primary moral obligation of people, not government, to administer to the poor. I believe in voting for what you believe to be morally right to be put into law.

I believe that our Father in Heaven responds to the unprecedented evil in our world by sending us **unprecedented truth and power**. While I believe that these gifts of truth and power are embodied in and administered through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I

believe the has good things in store for all people of good will everywhere, regardless of their beliefs. Further, I believe that to assist us in establishing world peace and personal progress, our Father in Heaven will against send Jesus Christ among us, this time to be the king of all earth for 1,000 years. I believe that this millennium of peace and good government will commence in the very near future.



I Believe: Part 2 Digging a Bit Deeper

Now let's dig a bit deeper...

I believe that because of the benevolent government of our Father in Heaven, we are **free to make choices**. I believe that Father doesn't just want us to make good choices, he wants us to choose to make good choices.

Choosing to do good rather than being forced to do good is the only way to become like Father. I believe that laws

which govern the universe will dictate the consequences of our choices. I believe our Father in Heaven's laws are the same as the eternal laws of the universe, and his compliance to these laws gives him maximum power and authority.

As we learn to obey the laws of the universe, we like Father can **gain maximum power and authority** to govern our posterity like he governs his. Father made our spirits, and sent us to earth to get bodies. Some day when we have passed through our trials on earth, we too will be able to make spirits and send them to earths to learn and grow to become like ourselves.

There is **no beginning** of existence. Father in heaven has a father, and so on. Life continues forever and everyone including God himself has parents. Our Father in Heaven once dwelt on an earth like we are dwelling on. Father in Heaven has a wife, whom is our Mother in Heaven. They progressed together until they reached their current exalted status of Gods. The purpose of the human race isn't just to worship God, but is to become like God.

As the children of God, we can, through the help of Jesus Christ and each other, find our way to the blessings and **inheritance of God**. Jesus Christ found his way to Godhood by worshiping the Father. If we follow the example of Jesus Christ in word and deed, sincerely repenting when we fall short, we like Jesus Christ and like our heavenly parents, can become exalted Gods. We will then do



what they do, namely benevolently rule our innumerable posterity on thrones in kingdoms of glory forever, helping our posterity to find joy like us.

Only in **abiding by the laws** of the universe can one find complete and never-ending joy. A God is someone who has found this fullness of joy by obedience to eternal law, and the offering of self for the sake of others. In addition to complete joy, the office of Godhood includes never ending glory and power for good.

We are the **literal posterity of our Father and Mother in Heaven**, in that their spiritual goodness and their physical DNA are at the core of our spirits and bodies, and in that they are responsible for helping each of us intrinsically & independently intelligent beings to progress in spirits and bodies in ways similar to how our parents on earth help us. For their absolutely essential role in our development, we will forever praise both our Heavenly Parents, and our earthly parents. Our need for the help of God to make progress in life is so great, that we must worship God and rely upon his power and teachings to obtain the highest outcome of our eternal existence. The life we live now is called the second estate. The first estate was our pre-earth life when we lived in the presence of God. For doing well in our first estate, we have glory. If we do well in this our second estate, we will have glory forever, and much more so than we currently enjoy.

Before coming to earth, some of Father's children rejected his teachings, and chose to not come to earth to obtain bodies and continue on the path toward Godhood. Those children tragically account for 1/3 of all of Father's children. The leader of these fallen 1/3 is named Lucifer. Lucifer was a beloved son of God, but because he unrighteously sought to gain power which he had not earned, and to use that power to force others to obey him, he was thrust out from the presence of God, and is the enemy of God who we call Satan.

Satan will never receive a body, and thus can never have a fullness of joy. The 2/3 of Father's children who chose to come to earth to be tested and tried in bodies will all die, but will regain their bodies in their perfect form in what is called the resurrection of the dead. After the resurrection of the dead, all people who lived on earth will have bodies again, and will never taste of death again. The Sons of Perdition will also partake of the second death (D&C 76).

Father's plan for us his children involved sending us to **earth to gain bodies**, obtaining character growth on earth through the difficulties of life including eventual death, the reception of bodies in the resurrection. Note that Father respects us his children and allowed us to choose whether we wanted to come to earth, and once on earth, Father allows us to do as we please. Father assists us by eventually blessing those who make good choices, and cursing those who make poor choices. These blessings and cursings are from Father, and are often manifest as natural consequences of our actions. Our heavenly parents weep for us when we make bad choices, because they know those choices will inevitably

bring suffering. Remember, no one can break the rules of the universe, not even God.

In order to further assist us, Father's **plan involved a Savior**. The Savior would be someone strong enough to take upon himself the natural punishments for the wrong doings committed by the human race. This intercession would make possible a loving learning environment with second chances, helping us to grow up without experiencing the full weight of consequences, similar to how an earthly parent removes many of the natural consequences of its young children by acting in their behalf.

Jesus Christ, formerly known as Jehovah before he was born on earth, was the only person qualified to satisfy this role of Savior of mankind. He chose to accept this calling. Because he chose to accept his calling for us, he suffered more than we can comprehend, and the laws of the universe were upheld. Justice was served. The natural results of

imperfect compliance with the laws of the universe are pain and death of the body, and anguish of spirit. Lucifer was incapable of paying this price to redeem the human race from their fallen and incomplete condition, he was satisfied to allow the human race to remain in anguish and without bodies, and wanted to replace Father as ruler of all people.

Lucifer erroneously thought that he could force everyone to obey the laws of the universe, and thus save everyone to some degree, at least enough to make them his subjects forever in his kingdom. Forced charity is of the Devil, and doesn't help humans grow into their

potential. This of course would deny

Father's children the opportunity to fully mature into the status of Gods themselves, as forced charity isn't charity at all, and the trait of charity is the bedrock of Godhood. Father's plan involved letting people chose for themselves whether they wanted to participate in his plan and come to earth, and his plan involved allowing them to grow from freedom to make mistakes while on earth. The Savior would give essential assistance to the human race in their quest for the divine and the fullness of joy that comes with it.

When Jehovah was born on earth, he assumed the title of Jesus Christ, which translated has the general meaning of anointed (chosen) savior. He then accomplished his intercession for the human race by both suffering anguish in his spirit, and both pain and death in his body. Because of his unique divine



power similar to that of Father himself, which power he indeed received from Father, Jesus experienced the equivalent of tens of billions of deaths, tens of billions of pains, sorrows, and torments of every kind, satisfying the demands of justice for every person who chose to come to this earth and other earths inhabited by children of our Father.

The 1/3 in pre-earth life who rejected God's plan and chose not to come to earth but to rather elect Lucifer as their leader who could offer them a compromised but to them seemingly more realistic reward had this in common: they did not trust Jehovah's ability to redeem them, and they thought that life on earth would just be too hard overall, so why even bother trying when so much war death pain and sorrow would invariably be involved as a natural consequence of giving the human race the power to make their own choices, for good or evil.

The 2/3 who chose to follow Father's plan centered their hopes on Jehovah, that mighty firstborn son of God who had remarkably already obtained the character needed to save all of us his fellow kin. Because of the breathtakingly critical and massive role that Jehovah would assume in our salvation, he became a God to us, and in a large sense of the word, he became a father to us.

A third major assistant was made available to us, a man who would be known as the **Holy Ghost**. This man does not yet have a body, and as a spirit, uses the mighty power he developed in the pre-earth existence to communicate to us truths from Father. The bible and the book of Mormon are the most historically well-preserved books of all time. They show us that Jehovah (translated as LORD in most English versions of the text) played a very close role with the human race throughout the history of human experience on the earth. In 1820, Father appeared to Joseph Smith, and with him Jesus Christ appeared. Father told Joseph "this is my beloved son, hear him". Both the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ always bear witness that Father in Heaven is our God who upholds the just laws of the universe. We love Father in Heaven because not only does he uphold justice and fairness, but he provided a Savior for us, so we could overcome the many hurdles in our path toward becoming people of justice and perfect character like himself.

In this life, generally speaking, we do not see Father, and the **Holy Ghost assists us** in our quest for truth and righteousness. Every person who comes to this earth, because of having elected Jesus Christ in the pre-earth life, possesses the light of Christ. This light is a power within us which comes from Jesus Christ to assist us in our quest. Another term for the light of Christ is conscience.

Everyone on this earth, no matter how little they have been formally exposed to the teachings of Jesus Christ by his authorized texts and messengers, can respond to conscience, or reject it. We all know deep down that we should treat each other fairly, and be merciful to each other whenever possible.

Couples of man and wife can combine their powers to become like our heavenly parents. The ultimate expression of power and authority can only operate when

man and woman make an **eternal covenant of marriage** to act together in all things for good. We all die, but will come back to live with our bodies in the near future, and like Father and Mother in heaven, we will forever possess bodies of flesh and blood which we will use to have joy. Our spirits are incomplete without our bodies. I believe that our Father in Heaven has, in every generation, made us aware of the truths and laws of the universe through face to face personal demonstrations in the pre-earth existence, then again, a second time during this our mortal life through the operations of conscience, from divine angelic messengers sent from the presence of God (God meaning Father and Mother in heaven), and from the messages of prophets.

I Believe: Part 3: Conclusions

To reiterate,

I believe we lived with our heavenly parents and fellow siblings of the human race for a very long time as **intelligent spirits before we came to this earth**. I believe that our Father in Heaven created this earth as an aid in our quest to become as he is, given that said quest entails the reception of bodies and the acquisition of experience therein. The pain and joy we experience in this life are critical teaching tools from our heavenly parents.

I believe that our Father in Heaven has created an **immense number of planets**, many of which he has tailored through specific astronomical arrangements to suit human life. I believe these planets serve the same purpose to others of his children as our earth does for us, as his desires for the complete progress of his children are universal. I believe that our Father in Heaven has power over all operations which affect us, and that he allows us to have the agency to make our own moral choices.

I believe that to make **mercy** available to us, Father in Heaven directed his most advanced son, a divine being named Jesus Christ, to perform a vicarious atonement in our behalf. I believe that everyone, even those who feel weak unclean or simple, can become like our Father in Heaven as they sincerely attempt to make good choices today, and, when they understand and believe in the role of Jesus Christ, access his assistance.

I believe that our Father in Heaven has made arrangements for the entire human race to eventually **overcome physical death** in a universal reconstitution (resurrection) of our bodies, and that this will take place at a point in time in the near future. I believe that when this happens, we will continue as intelligent corporal beings indefinitely, just like our Father in Heaven. I believe that the power of intellect and the corporal beauty will be greatly expanded at this time, especially for those who have sought to align their lives with eternal laws.

I believe our **families are a prototype** of the lifestyle of our Father in Heaven, intended to exist indefinitely and grow exponentially. I believe that sexual relations outside of a marriage between a man woman are not in keeping with the laws of the universe, and that they do not contribute to the progress of our species, nor the individual development of the individual eternal soul. I also believe that celibacy and ideological rejection of marriage and childbearing cut a person off from their potential to become our heavenly parents. I believe that people are best served personally and on a societal level as they adhere to social practices of modest dress, marriage, & childbearing.

I believe our Father in Heaven responds to unprecedented evil in our world by sending us **unprecedented truth and power**. While I believe that these gifts of truth and power are embodied in and administered through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormonism), I believe he has good things in store

for all people of good will everywhere, regardless of their beliefs. Further, I believe that to assist us in establishing world peace and personal progress, our Father in Heaven will again send Jesus Christ to be king of all earth for 1,000 years, and that this millennium will commence in the very near future, as foretold by the prophets.

Those who elected to follow Lucifer in the pre-earth life are forever disappointed in his inability to deliver on his promises. Lucifer has been cursed by Father for his rebellion. Father participates in the administration of the just laws of the universe. This is what makes him God. If Father were to cease to uphold justice, he would cease to be God. Those who seek joy in ways not in accordance with the eternal laws of the universe seek a thing that can never be. All of those who elected to follow Lucifer elected a false paradigm, and now they suffer the natural consequences thereof. Rebellion against Father in Heaven while in pre-earth life was a very serious and open rebellion against goodness and truth.

When we have finished this short life, **God will judge** us to see if we have passed the final test of operating righteously without being under his constant supervision. The judgement will expose our character and show if we have again elected goodness, or if we have turned to evil.

In that **judgement**, he will take into account our circumstances, our abilities, and everything else he can to load all the mercy into our contract that he can, including the help of Jesus Christ which can be accessed by faith, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end of life while applying the teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the Holy Bible, and other holy scripture found in The Church of Jesus Christ. Not only do we have access to the words of Jehovah to people of times of old, but we also have, thanks to the never-ending goodness of Father, more revelations applicable to the entire human race which flow to us from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That church is the venue God uses to communicate his will to man on earth. That church bears the title of the name of Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ is the owner of that church. He has sanctioned it, and personally appears to his prophet speakers therein to send universal messages of light truth and hope to the human race.

Those who **accept the words of the prophets** as found in the church of Jesus Christ will be much better prepared for the judgement of God which is soon to come to each individual. Some core components of the judgement of God will include whether we sought truth, whether we helped others, how we treated our spouse, and how we treated our children, including the attention to individual relationships with each of them.

Because of the central role bodies play in our Father's plan of happiness, **the body is one of the key ways that we can do good in life, or evil**. Taking the life of another except in self-defense or righteous defense of nation is a most serious sin, comparable only to the greatest sin called "denying the Holy Ghost",

which essentially means willful rebellion against God after God has revealed himself to you. The sin next in seriousness is that of adultery, which involves sexual relations outside of marriage between a man and woman lawfully married. This sin frequently involves the murder of babies in the womb, and long-term anguish of spirit as a result of emotional and spiritual ties between two people which become broken, which ties were never meant to be broken. When someone commits their entire body to another person, giving full access to it, it is a holy symbol of how every other part of their lives should also be united. Marriages are intended by God to be effective not only in this life, but in the eternal world to come. Just as Father and Mother in heaven are two people who will never be separated, so are we their children meant to be. We like them are designed to pair up with each other, and remain paired forever. Man and woman are two essential halves of an eternal family. Mankind will never be long term satisfied in attempts to navigate social relationships outside of the context of marriage between man and woman. Further, children are entitled to be reared in a home with a mother and father committed to each other. Sexual misconduct leads to unfavorable circumstances for children, and such brings the wrath of God. Another reason we value marital fidelity is that it is the key venue for developing charity. Marital happiness including the maintenance of a relationship with spouse and children both require self-denial on a regular basis, and for one to confront all of their conscious and subconscious weaknesses. This unique tutelage is the only way to fully develop charity. This does not mean that a single person is not charitable, but it means that no one can reach exaltation until they have passed through the refining trials of family life. For some those refining experiences will not be accessible until a later time known to God, but those who willingly avoid and defame the institution of marriage and parenthood are cowards who unwittingly hold themselves back from progress they were sent to earth to make. Life a river blocked in its progress toward its destination, so does the deliberate procrastination of family creation hold a person back from the ultimate goal of exaltation. Exaltation entails enjoying the character and lifestyle of God, and all power that entails. Well can it be said that parenthood is the fountain of exaltation.

The **ultimate outcome** of our existence can take several directions.

Followers of Lucifer receive no glory, and remain in a place called outer darkness forever. Among those who made it to earth, only a small few will defect to this depraved state called perdition. The rest of the 2/3 of Father's children, including everyone who has been born on this earth, will inherit an eternal residence in a kingdom of God forever.

There are 3 such kingdoms, all of which contain joy and glory to varying degrees. The lowest of these is titled the **telestial kingdom**. It is akin to life on this earth. Those who are assigned residence in the telestial kingdom are those who were willing to live telestial law, no more, no less. The lesser than this is perdition. They tested out of that by electing Jehovah in the pre-earth life, and

by not devoting themselves to the ways of Lucifer in this life. The telestial residents are often rebellious and wicked, and must endure a temporary state of suffering as punishment for their evil deeds before they can qualify for residence in the telestial kingdom of glory. There exists a place where our spirits reside between the time of death and the time of the resurrection of the body.

Depending on how we lived our lives, that state will either be pleasant, or filled with utmost despair and anguish. The wicked people of earth will live in anguish in this period directly following the death of the body. Another term for this place for spirits while they await the resurrection is the spirit world. The spirit world is on this earth, but cannot be discerned by finite mortal eyes. There exists in the spirit world both a place of suffering or hell, and a place of gladness or paradise. Those who must suffer in this hell are they who, to some degree or other, did not elect Jesus Christ to assist them in payment of the debts they owed from their offenses committed against the laws of the universe as upheld by our Father in Heaven. In addition to payment of debts, a large component of the suffering in hell will be a realization of what they could have had if they had simply chosen to follow the light of Christ. If they had not repeatedly ignored their conscience, and if they had instead chosen to figuratively lay down their weapons of rebellion, the state of their eternal enjoyment could have been so much greater. There exists another group of persons who do not enjoy paradise in the world of spirits: these are the ignorant. These are they who never knew of the plan of Father, never knew of Jehovah or Jesus Christ and his intercession and accompanying laws of baptism and repentance. These ignorant persons who, by no fault of their own, did not have access to eternal truths which could have guided their lives, will be taught the eternal truths, and given the opportunity to receive baptism and the other ordinances needed for access to the highest kingdom of glory. These ignorant persons did have access to conscience like everyone else, but without the guiding principles of true religion, they did not find expression to what they otherwise could have done in life. There exist today on earth in the Church of Jesus Christ, holy temples, wherein living persons assist their dead forefathers to learn of and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The next kingdom of glory which a person may be assigned to is the **terrestrial kingdom** of glory. This is a place for the good and honorable people of earth. In that kingdom, they will be frequently visited by Jesus Christ, and enjoy the association of each other, and many pleasant blessings from Father.

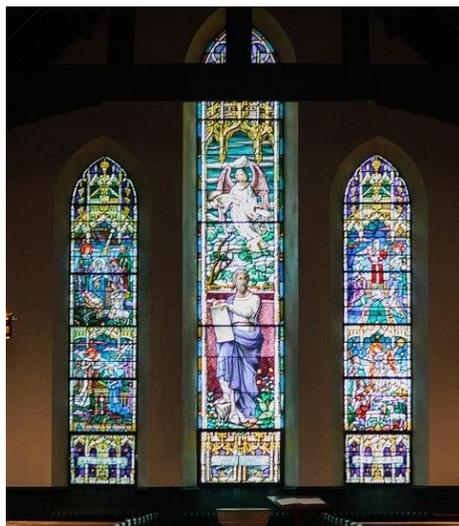
The next kingdom of glory is the **celestial kingdom** of glory. To enter this kingdom one must accept the teachings of Jesus Christ as found in His Church, and commit to follow Jesus Christ via baptism into His Church. To advance in that kingdom, one must enter holy temples to receive further training. To reach the highest level of the celestial kingdom wherein one bursts the ceiling and creates their own kingdom, one must be married. When a man marries a woman in the house of God, that marriage is the key to their exaltation, so long as they maintain that marriage in righteousness, including repenting as needed, and

obeying the words of God as communicated to them through the Holy Ghost and the prophets in the Church of Jesus Christ. For those who obtain this highest degree of glory in the celestial kingdom, there is no end to their glory. They like the Gods who have come before them, sit upon thrones, create worlds, and as Jehovah promised to Abraham, have a never-ending posterity, more numerable than the sands of the sea and stars in the sky. This high glory of the celestial is far surpassing anything found in the lower kingdoms. In every kingdom of God, the basic laws of God are enforced, including the law of chastity, which states that sexual relations are only to be had between man and wife, lawfully wedded. For a marriage to be efficacious in the life to come, and to continue there what was started here, that contract of marriage, like any other contract, must be verified by Father. In the kingdom of Father, only contracts ratified by Father stand. Father is the governor there, and contracts not endorsed and endowed by himself are not valid there. This means that those who were baptized by a man who had not the authority of God will not have a valid recognized baptism, and will thus not be allowed access into the celestial kingdom of God. Further, the celestial kingdom residents who apply for access to the highest glory thereof as had in the marriage scenario, will be denied said advancement if the marriage they had created was not ratified by God. The place that a marriage ratified by God can be obtained is in his holy houses of law and order which we call temples. In and only in temples can eternal marriages not to be severed at the parting of death be performed. The teachings of Father are found in his church, and his church points candidates to his temples. The temple marriage is the only valid marriage because it is the only marriage which is created in the setting of obedience to the laws of God. To be allowed access to the holy temple, a candidate must pay their tithes, must live the law of chastity, must live the health code revealed by God, must obey the 10 commandments as revealed in the book of Exodus, must sustain the prophets leading the church of Jesus Christ, and agree to live other laws of God's kingdom. If someone is not willing to live the laws of God's kingdom, they are not willing to enjoy the blessings of God's kingdom. God's kingdom is a place of order, and those who will not abide the laws of a certain kingdom, must be demoted to the laws and blessings of the inferior kingdom. Those who reject all of God's laws defect to perdition. Most people accept the laws of the telestial or celestial kingdom. Few accept the laws of the celestial kingdom, and thus few enjoy the blessings of fully inheriting all things which God has, including the assumption of the very character and role of a God to ones continuing posterity. Because the laws of God are strictly enforced in his kingdoms, and sexual relations are forbidden outside of marriage, and marriage is only accessible to those who abide the many high commitments of the highest glory, the only place that the union of the male and female body is enjoyed is the highest glory of the celestial kingdom of God. This strict limitation further impresses upon our minds the attitude and character of God in relation to the sacredness of the body, and the sacredness of the

marriage relation. It follows that the rearing of children in eternity is another privilege reserved for the highest glory of the celestial kingdom, which also impresses upon us the seriousness of the caring for children with which one is blessed in this life. These 3 different kingdoms of glory also bring with them varying levels of enhancement in the resurrection. The higher kingdoms include the most powerful and majestic bodies.

Reader, stand back, and **be joyful**. Pause for a moment to remember that Father in Heaven loves you. He is YOUR Father. Contrary to the opinion of the followers of Lucifer, Father's plan can work for YOU, and YOU can succeed therein. Jesus Christ has power sufficient to save your soul from long term misery. He will give you the gift of a resurrected immortal body. Rejoice at how far you have come, and how many blessings you have already qualified for! Fear not, and know that there is no limit to the number of residents that can fit in the celestial kingdom. Space is infinite, and matter can be organized to create more worlds. Let nothing make you afraid, only trust Jesus Christ. Find in prayer to Father the courage you need to start making better choices today. Weep for joy, for wherever you are, whoever you are, Father will hear you, and begin from the moment you bow your head to pray to him, begin to pour out exponentially more blessings upon your head than what he is already pouring upon you day by day. These blessings will include direct pleasures, and indirect pleasures in that he will enable you to be more successful in your righteous endeavors, which will bring great satisfaction and pleasure to your soul. Never give up. You have fought on the right side of truth for eons. Don't give up just yet. Hold out a little longer, and like the widow who cast in her few pennies at the temple treasury who was mocked for her poverty and inability to give, so do you, give what you can to build God's kingdom on earth, make every good choice you possibly can, including resting in the Lord, and then you will see the salvation of God. You will again know your Father's face, and with him enjoy eternal life. This life isn't just a "test", it is also, and perhaps more so, a tutelage, a training, an apprenticeship. A large test was pre-mortality. You passed that test, and now have some amount of security to operate in. You have access to the mercy of Jesus Christ! You can make mistakes! It's like the golden parachute clause in major corporations: some employees are so valuable to the company, that even if they make big mistakes now and then, they are given forgiveness, for their ability to grow the company is so much greater than even the damages they have done. So it is with you, 2/3's. Everyone born to this earth has proven to Father in pre-mortal life that they are a very important player, who won't be kicked out for little or even big mistakes. However what will go against us is if we stop trying. No matter how long you've betrayed your conscience. No matter how many people you've let down. No matter how deep the hole you're in may seem. You can trust Jesus Christ. You can come to his church. You can give your figurative pennies to build your life in a positive direction, including attempts to look beyond yourself and serve others as righteous service opportunities will continue

to present themselves to you in this most choice time we call mortality. Yes, agency allows people to start wars and rob each other of bread. But life is still worth it. I'm forever glad that I elected Jesus Christ and chose to come to earth, even though it is hard. Think not that a life of hardship is a sign that you are punished for sin. Yes we all have sin and our lives would be better if we could cut more of that out. But generally speaking, life is supposed to be hard. It was hard for Jesus Christ, who was "rejected in the house of his friends". Since life includes suffering, lets suffer together rather than alone. Come have joy with us, and share your fun personality and skills. We need you to help us, and we can help you. Let us support each other at church. Further, come have peace with us in the temple. Come learn with us more of who we really are and what we are really capable of. Come see how kind God is to those who are still willing to try. Choose the better part. Choose to believe. I believe.



Cleon Skousen - Ancient Scripture Lecture - Highlights

Notes from a lecture found here: <https://youtu.be/a9GZSTSxvvk>

25 min Judah Joseph are supposed to work together in the last days. Could suggest temple institute Levites really will build the 3rd Jerusalem temple

Goes through key dates to take note of, easy ways to remember when prophets were

Goes over Anglo-Saxon history identifying them as the house of Ephraim

Joseph Klausner has a book on the Messianic Idea in Israel He talks about Messiah Ben Joseph will come before Messiah Ben David and the Messiah Ben David is the Messiah Jesus Christ Messiah Ben Joseph is Joseph Smith
See around minute 42

The prophet Jeremiah was anointed at year 14 just like Joseph Smith

We found the house of Lehi

Moses was 40 years a prince of Egypt, 40 a shepherd, 40 a prophet

Pre-Mortality – Teachings of the Prophets

-“God has important work for each of us. Speaking to sisters but teaching truths that apply to all, President Spencer W. Kimball taught: “Before we came [to earth, we] were given certain assignments. ... While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to.”(Spencer W. Kimball, “The Role of Righteous Women,” Ensign, Nov. 1979, 102) What an ennobling truth! Our Heavenly Father has specific and significant things for you and me to accomplish (see Ephesians 2:10). These divine assignments are not reserved for a privileged few but are for all of us—regardless of gender, age, race, nationality, income level, social status, or Church calling. Every one of us has a meaningful role to play in furthering God’s work (see Moses 1:39). Some of us question whether Heavenly Father can use us to make important contributions. But remember, He has always used ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things (see 1 Corinthians 1:27–28; D&C 35:13; 124:1). “[We] are agents,” and “the power is in [us]” to “bring to pass much righteousness” (D&C 58:27–28).(President Gordon B. Hinckley encouraged: “Believe in yourself. Believe in your capacity to do great ... things. ... You are a child of God, of infinite capacity” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Gordon B. Hinckley [2016], 77).) President Russell M. Nelson explained: “The Lord has more in mind for you than you have in mind for yourself! You have been reserved and preserved for this time and place. ... The Lord needs you to change the world. As you accept and follow His will for you, you will find yourself accomplishing the impossible!” (Russell M. Nelson, *Accomplishing the Impossible: What God Does, What We Can Do* (2015), 147.)” (Oct. 2017 Conf. Report “I have a work for Thee” by Elder John C Pingree Jr. of the Seventy, see <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2017/10/i-have-a-work-for-thee?lang=eng>)

-Speaking of the differences between spirits, President Joseph Fielding Smith said: “We know they were all innocent in the beginning; but the right of free agency which was given to them enabled some to outstrip others, and thus, through the eons of immortal existence, to become more intelligent, more faithful, for they were free to act for themselves, to think for themselves, to receive the truth or rebel against it” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:59).(https://www.lds.org/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual/the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng)

-The Prophet Joseph Smith stated: “God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself. The relationship we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge. He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be

exalted with Himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits” (History of the Church, 6:312).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual/the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng>)

-The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “I am dwelling on the immortality of the spirit of man. Is it logical to say that the intelligence of spirits is immortal, and yet that it has a beginning? The intelligence of spirits had no beginning, neither will it have an end. That is good logic” (History of the Church, 6:311).

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual/the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng>)

-“Mankind are organized of element designed to endure to all eternity; it never had a beginning and never can have an end. There never was a time when this matter, of which you and I are composed, was not in existence, and there never can be a time when it will pass out of existence; it cannot be annihilated.

“It is brought together, organized, and capacitated to receive knowledge and intelligence, to be enthroned in glory, to be made angels, Gods—beings who will hold control over the elements, and have power by their word to command the creation and redemption of worlds, or to extinguish suns by their breath, and disorganize worlds, hurling them back into their chaotic state. This is what you and I are created for” (Discourses of Brigham Young, 48; see also D&C 93:29–33). (<https://www.lds.org/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual/the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng>)

-“IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.” (The Family: A Proclamation to the World: First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

(<https://www.lds.org/topics/family-proclamation>)

-“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

-“And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael;” Joseph Smith Translation Rev. 12:6

-“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” Job 38:7

-“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” John 5:58

-“Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.” Ether 3:16

-“And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first.” Abraham 3:27

– 1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:1-3

-“the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” John 1:18

-“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

-“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” John 18:36

A Nine Part Saga of Life & Eternity

7 episode drama - 9 if add in prequel sequel:

1. Prequel: premortal and creation
2. 1 first thousand years Adam
3. 2nd thousand years
4. 3rd thousand years
5. 4th thousand years
6. 5th thousand years
7. 6th thousand years
8. 7th thousand years: signs and terr millen
9. Sequel: beyond the 7k yrs: the celestial

Emulating the Godhead in the Pre-Mortal, Mortal, & Post-Mortal Existence: An Allegory of The Plan of Salvation in the 3 Phases of Life & The 3 Kingdoms of Glory

Overview:

The Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead. The Holy Ghost is a spirit, and shows us how to live in a premortal state. Those who prove worthy there eventually come to an earth to live. Jesus Christ is another member of the Godhead. Jesus Christ came to this earth 2000 years ago and showed us how to live in our mortal lives. Heavenly Father is another member of the Godhead. Heavenly Father's status shows us what it is like after mortal life if we prove faithful.

In pre-mortality, we were like the Holy Ghost, without a body. In this life, we are like Jesus Christ, with a body. In the next life, we can, if we prove faithful here, be like Heavenly Father, with an eternal body and spirit combined.

The premortal stage was for preparation. Mortal stage is for performance. Post-mortal stage is where we reach completion, and continue our labors in a state of exaltation.

The Godhead is set up to show us how to live. We are to pattern our eternal lives after their eternal lives if we wish to enjoy, with them, the fullest blessings of eternal life & exaltation.

The Doctrine and Covenants reveals the government of the kingdoms of God. In the kingdoms of God, the Holy Ghost ministers to the telestial. In the terrestrial, Jesus Christ ministers. In the celestial, Heavenly Father ministers. Each member of the Godhead is a worthy resident of the celestial kingdom. The Godhead work together to rule the various kingdoms of glory.

We will consider an analogy of how the premortal mortal and post-portal stages are typified by these the 3 members of the Godhead. We will also consider, for the purposes of this analogy, that the telestial, terrestrial, and celestial kingdoms are like unto 3 stages of progression. I do not believe that a permanent assignment to one of these 3 kingdoms post-mortally can ever be changed, we are just using them as analogies of stages of growth and development. Examples of this are presented in the sections of this presentation as follows.

We will consider 11 analogies where this parable:

Analogy 1: Ministers / Prototypes

Analogy 2: Family Elements

Analogy 3: Family Stage

Analogy 4: Perfect Faith Required for Salvation (2 Ne. 9:23): Joseph Smith's 3 elements of faith

Analogy 5: Role of Scripture

Analogy 6: Success Rate

Analogy 7: Prevailing Expectation

Analogy 8: Vision / Perspective

Analogy 9: Temple Connections

Analogy 10: Prevailing Sentiment

Analogy 11: Selection Process for God's Several Kingdoms of Glory

Bonus Analogy: The Batman Trilogy

Within each analogy, we will consider 3 categories:

- a. Celestial likeness, Premortal era, Preparatory stage
- b. Terrestrial likeness, Mortality era, Performing stage
- c. Celestial likeness, Post-Mortality era, Complete stage

Analogy 1: Ministers / Prototypes

- a. Ministers / Prototypes of Celestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Holy Ghost (unembodied)

- b. Ministers / Prototypes of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Jesus Christ (embodied)

- c. Ministers / Prototypes of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Heavenly Father (perfectly / indestructibly / perpetually embodied)

Analogy 2: Family Elements

- a. Family Elements of Celestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Testify of God our Father and his family-based plan

- b. Family Elements of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Selfless sacrifice in adhering to God's laws in relationships; Family based priorities

c. Family Elements of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Use of family unit to achieve theosis (theosis= human becoming God); Perpetuate family structure

Analogy 3: Family Stage

a. Family Stage of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Family orientation

b. Family Stage of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Family creation

c. Family Stage of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Perpetual Families; Create and orient your creation

Analogy 4: Perfect Faith Required for Salvation (2 Ne. 9:23):

(Joseph Smith's 3 elements of faith as found in 'Lectures On Faith')

a. Faith stage of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Know the characteristics of God. Believe in God and chose his plan.

b. Faith stage of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Know that you are living in accordance to God's expectations. Emulate Jesus Christ the Son of God. We are also sons & daughters of God.

c. Faith stage of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Receive all promised blessings.

Analogy 5: Role of Scripture

a. Role of Scripture of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Motivate creations to adopt creator's philosophy.

b. Role of Scripture of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Execute scripture (law) from our creator.

c. Role of Scripture of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Create scripture for your creations.

Analogy 6: Success Rate

a. Success Rate of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

2/3 success; 1/3 defect to perdition. Everyone has equal opportunity succeed, but not everyone chooses to do so.

b. Success Rate of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Narrow path, but only a few defect all the way down to perdition. Everyone has equal opportunity succeed, but not everyone chooses to do so.

c. Success Rate of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Many called, few chosen for theosis. However, God's mercy and justice provide alternate kingdoms for inferior levels of performance. Everyone has equal opportunity succeed, but not everyone chooses to do so.

Section 7: Prevailing Expectation

a. Prevailing Expectation of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Receive

b. Prevailing Expectation of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Give

c. Prevailing Expectation of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Receive and Give in eternal balance.

Section 8: Vision & Perspective

a. Vision & Perspective of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

See the plan

b. Vision & Perspective of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Operate the plan (without "seeing" it; walk by faith); Probation / Test / Exam

c. Vision & Perspective of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

See & show "one eternal round"

Section 9: Temple Connections

a. Temple Connections of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Faith in & covenant with deity required to succeed and pass into next phase

b. Temple Connections of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Covering the spirit with a body as a temple symbol; sacred vs profane space; Discriminatory relationships.

c. Temple Connections of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Marriage as a type/symbol of reunion with presence of God. Procreative marriage a foretaste of theosis.

Section 10: Prevailing Sentiment

a. Prevailing Sentiment of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

Rejoice (Job 37:8)

b. Prevailing Sentiment of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Weep (Isa. 53:3)

c. Prevailing Sentiment of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Eternal balance of rejoicing and weeping (Isa. 25:8; Moses 7:29-37)

Section 11: Selection Process for God's Several Kingdoms of Glory

a. Selection Process of Telestial/Premortal/Preparatory:

The sons of perdition (1/3 of God’s children) didn't make it on to the next stage of mortality despite the opportunities they were given before being cast down to perdition. They refused to live up the telestial standard required for mortal life within the ample and merciful time given them. The rest (2/3) came to the next level of progress: Mortality.

b. Selection Process of Terrestrial/Mortality/Performing:

Mortals who remain telestial in their attitudes/behaviors don't make it on to the next stage of progression, the great Millennium. These wicked are consumed in the millennial day at the Second Coming of Christ, despite the opportunities they were given before his return. They refused to live up the terrestrial standard required for millennial life within the ample and merciful time given them. The rest are permitted to advance into the Millennial stage to further progress toward exaltation.

c. Selection Process of Celestial/Post-Mortality/Completion:

Millennials who remain merely terrestrial in their attitudes/behaviors do not qualify for exaltation; they fail to qualify for exaltation despite opportunities during the Millennium. They refused to live up the celestial standard required for eternal life and exaltation within the ample and merciful time given them. The rest who do qualify for exaltation go onward to complete perfection, and become Gods themselves. They enter into ‘the rest of the Lord’ (Alma 13:16).

Bonus Analogy: The Batman Trilogy (I don’t suggest the movie, but the theme is indicative of the hero story and gospel plan)



(image spliced from movie covers by unknown)

a. Telestial likeness, Premortal era, Preparatory stage

Creation. Self-discovery, orientation, anticipation, faith to go forward despite not comprehending all the details of the future.

b. Terrestrial likeness, Mortality era, Performing stage

Fall. Things not going as smoothly as you anticipated. The Fall of Adam. Coping with the fallen nature. Not giving up when beaten down.

c. Celestial likeness, Post-Mortality era, Complete stage

Atonement. Conquering all things, rising above all things, completing the painful process of divine sacrifice for others. The Atonement of Christ. The atonement of giving all you are to others. Becoming like Christ in all things, eliminating the fallen nature.

3 Purposes, 7 Processes, 3 Principles from this Analogy:

Purpose 1: The purpose of the family is to go on to exaltation, and participate in the eternal creation of more family units on a larger scale. Without the perpetuation of the family unit in eternity, the family is vain and will come to an end. There is no beginning of souls, they existed in the beginning with God, and they must go on forever. Even the damned will continue to exist forever, for they have no beginning, so they can have no end. The ultimate expression of the divine is that a family emulates the creative aspects of God.

Purpose 2: The purpose of studying the word of God in family settings is to express the message that the entire plan of salvation is based on the family unit. The religions of this world lack an understanding of the perpetuation of the family. The family must be together in heaven, and without this view, the family will lose motivation for virtuous livelihoods. The entire system of life is based on creation and edification of family units, and if those are to fall away in heaven, both the lack of will to do good for heaven and the will to do good for mortality vanish.

Purpose 3: The purpose of modest dress is to protect the chastity of women. Modest dress is additionally to represent the divine nature of the body, which should not be accessible to the general public, just like a temple and God's kingdom. The temple is not open enrollment, and God's university is thus scorned by the secular masses, but we have seen in social science that immodest dress is a type of how when the sacred is offered at large to the profane, then the relationship system fails. The relationships without the backbone of covenants fall apart as quickly as sand in one's hand. If women become unchaste, they lose the appreciation for themselves, and forget divine ideals and possibilities.

Process 1: A family must use the standard words as the key focus of their study, so they cannot reasonably deny the requirements of God's law to inherit salvation. The laws for salvation are contained in the standard works, and

without their application, the preaching of the word of God does not occur, and the faith needed for salvation cannot be obtained. The individual matter of salvation becomes unavailable, and the higher family matter of exaltation becomes void.

Process 2: The family must teach each other the non-biological aspects of the plan of salvation by instructing in the value of relationships rather than mere animalistic approach to courtship. If a couple will court each other just for sexual attraction, they are forgetting about needed components of marital stability and overall happiness (including sexual intercourse frequency). The plan of God is designed to enable spirits in bodies to have eternal joy, but the spirit aspect of the body cannot be overlooked if this is to be successful.

Process 3: The family must emphasize the importance of selfless love in the mortality phase of Gods plan. If the family will do this, the candidates for salvation will learn obedience by the things they suffer. The call to follow Christ is a call to suffer, and the world of false churches often go wrong on this point alone: that the path of Christ is not an easy path (though it is more easy than suffering in hell, as Christ said). Only by following Christ can any person, along with their hopes and dreams, attain divine goals, including marriage and continuing parenthood.

Process 4 : The family must understand their role as testators, similar to the Holy Ghost. If the family will testify of the divinity of God to each other in their times of need, they will gain the strength they need to overcome their trials. Faith comes by hearing the word of God, and without this, the candidates cannot gain faith. Salvation is impossible to obtain without perfect faith as the Book of Mormon says, and thus hearing the word of God is essential to spiritual growth. The Holy Ghost is a person, this makes it easy for us to emulate him in our relationships. We can know truth just like he can.

Process 5: The family must worship God at the temple in order to understand the "why" of modest dress. Not only is there a strict code of modesty inside the temple, but there is also a symbol of modesty there which communicates essential lessons for why we cover our bodies. The scriptures say that Christ covered Adam and Eve in coats of skins. Skins are the result of slain beasts, like the Lamb of God being slain. The sacrifice of Christ is essential to our protection. We profane ourselves via sin, and Christ puts his life on the line and ultimately on the altar for our sakes to cover our sins and bring us back to the ways of God, away from our fallen ways. When we learn that there is sacred space and profane space, we will understand the need to cover our bodies as a symbol that we are willing to obey the laws of God even when it seems non-sensical to ourselves.

Process 6: The family must study the role of Father in Heaven. Without this understanding, they will not have hope of a glorious future. The perfections of Heavenly Father and the splendid roles he operates (including the divine weeping for souls in trial) give us hope that heaven will be more than strumming

harps, and that there is a meaning to suffering which enables faith in God and in relationships even in hard times. The relationship will survive longer and even forever if we maintain faith in God, heaven, and a benevolent future. This will empower selfless love needed to maintain relationships with fellow imperfect beings.

Process 7: The family must repent of all their sins in order to stay together in eternity. All candidates of the family must be clean before being permitted into the presence of God. If the family does well but one individual does not, then the family will exist in the kingdom of God without the unclean member, for nothing can undo the laws of God. The mercy of Christ is operational only for repentant souls. Repentance is the benevolent key to unlock the otherwise forbidden doors of heaven, where only the just dwell. Christ was required to obey the law of God, and so are we. For us, one of the laws of God includes repentance, and we cannot be saved without it.

Principle 1: If God is worshiped by each member of the family individually and together in the home on a daily basis, the family will grow closer to each other. This means that the contrary is also true, namely that without God, relationships cannot thrive. If the individuals are left to themselves to find their way through the wilderness of life, they will be eaten by the wolves of secularism after becoming spiritually blind via their close-mindedness toward God. I use the word worship because it suggests the comparative might of God juxtaposed to the weakness of man. The family togetherness component is essential as the family and home are the laboratory to the human breed.

Principle 2: If marriage candidates value God's standards including particularly the modesty regulations, then they will have a marriage void of the strife aspect of eros love. This means that eros love while being a good thing (a love of physical beauty), if not contained within the parameters the Lord has set, will be fundamentally destructive toward any relationship. To think that a couple can consider the bodies things to be taken lightly and still expect the favor and grace of God in their relationship, then their hopes are founded upon something totally in contradiction to the very plan of salvation, which focuses on the incorporation of spirits on an earth as a primary element of moral examination. To put it simply, to misuse the body is to fail the key question in the test of the human being. The immodest person either knowingly or unknowingly denies God by denying faith in his plan of happiness. His plan of happiness entails virtue in marriage covenants, and the body being a temple, the candidate is denying the sacredness of the human nature as being an embryonic deity. This negation of truth leads to the impossibility of exaltation.

Principle 3: If humans emulate the Godhead in their aspirations for family success and efforts to activate the plan of redemption, they will progress together toward exaltation. This means that each member of the Godhead plays a distinct role, and family members can emulate that person in each stage. In pre-mortality we emulated the Holy Ghost in testifying of the reality of God and

his plans supernal & unique effectiveness. In mortality we walk the earth like Jesus Christ and take up our crosses doing our best like he did his best. In post-mortality we emulate Heavenly Father in the creation of spirit children and touring them through pre, post, and mortalities of their own. This aspect of sacrificial love in mortality is the glue which will hold family relationships together, and the post mortality aspect allows the perpetuation of the family system through eternity.

Emulating the Godhead in the Pre-Mortal, Mortal,
& Post-Mortal Existence: An Allegory of The
Plan of Salvation in the 3 Phases of Life & The 3
Kingdoms of Glory: ACCOMPANYING CHART
(fix format)

	<u>Telestial / Premortal / Preparatory</u>	<u>Terrestrial / Mortality / Perform</u>	<u>Celestial / Post-Mortality / C</u>
<u>ts / s to</u>	Holy Ghost (unembodied)	Jesus Christ (embodied)	Heavenly Father (perfectly / indestructibly / pe embodied)
<u>ly</u>	Testify of God our Father and his family-based plan	Selfless sacrifice in adhering to God's laws in relationships; Family based priorities	Use of family unit to achieve (theosis= human becoming G Perpetuate family structure
<u>ns:</u>	Faith in & covenant with deity required to succeed and pass into next phase	Covering body as a symbol of temples as sacred vs profane space. Discriminatory relationships.	Marriage as a type/symbol of with presence of God. Procre marriage a foretaste of theosis
<u>with for (2 3 of pted ph</u>	Know the characteristics of God. Believe in God and chose his plan.	Know that you are living in accordance to God's expectations. Emulate Jesus Christ the Son of God. We are also sons of God.	Receive all promised blessing
	Motivate creations to adopt creator's philosophy.	Execute scripture (law) from our creator.	Create scripture for your crea
<u>ate:</u>	2/3 success 1/3 defect to perdition	Narrow path, but only a few defect all the way down to perdition.	Many called, few chosen for However, God's mercy and ju provide alternate kingdoms fo levels of performance.
<u>g on:</u>	Receive	Give	Receive and Give in eternal b
<u>ve:</u>	See the plan	Operate the plan (without "seeing" it; walk by faith)	See & show "one eternal rou

		Probation / Test / Exam	
age:	Family orientation	Family creation	Perpetual Families; Create and orient your creation
g t	Rejoice (Job 37:8)	Weep (Isa. 53:3)	Eternal balance of rejoicing and weeping (Isa. 25:8; Moses 7:29-37)

The Holy Ghost – Teachings of the Prophets

–“The gift of the Holy Ghost . . . quickens all the intellectual faculties, increases, enlarges, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections; and adapts them, by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use. It inspires, develops, cultivates and matures all the fine-toned sympathies, joys, tastes, kindred feelings, and affections of our nature. It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness, and charity. It develops beauty of person, form and features. It tends to health, vigor, animation, and social feeling. It invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man. It strengthens, and gives tone to the nerves. In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, music to the ears, and life to the whole being” (Key to the Science of Theology, 9th ed. [1965], 101). (Quoted in talk by Elder Perry, Conf. Report Apr. 1997, <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1997/04/that-spirit-which-leadeth-to-do-good?lang=eng>)

-A more expanded text of the above text, “He is an intelligent being, in the Image of God, possessing every organ, attribute, sense, sympathy, and affection that is possessed by God Himself. But these are possessed by man, in his rudimental state, in a subordinate sense of the word. Or, in other words, these attributes are in embryo, and are to be gradually developed. They resemble a bud, a germ, which gradually develops into a bloom and then, by progress, produces the mature fruit after its own kind. The Gift of the Holy Ghost adapts itself to all these organs or attributes. It quickens all the intellectual faculties, increases, enlarges, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections and adapts them by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use. It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness and charity. It develops beauty of person, form and features. It tends to give health, vigor, animation and social feeling. It invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man. It strengthens and gives tone to the nerves. In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, music to the ears, and life to the whole being.

In the presence of such persons (who have been thus affected by It), one feels to enjoy the light of their countenance, as the genial rays of a sunbeam. Their very atmosphere diffuses a thrill, a warm glow of pure gladness and sympathy of Spirit. No matter if the parties are strangers, entirely unknown to each other, each will be apt to remark in his own mind, and perhaps exclaim, when referring to the interview- “Oh, what an atmosphere encircles that stranger! How my heart thrilled with pure and holy feelings in the presence of this person. What confidence and sympathy he inspired. His countenance and spirit gave me more

assurance than a thousand written recommendations, or introductory letters.”
Such is the Gift of the Holy Ghost, and such are its operations, when received through the lawful channel—the Divine, Eternal Priesthood.”

(Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, pp. 101- 103)

-“It is a waste of time to speculate in relation to his jurisdiction. We know what has been revealed and that the Holy Ghost, sometimes spoken of as the Holy Spirit, and Comforter, is the third member of the Godhead, and that he, being in perfect harmony with the Father and the Son, reveals to man by the spirit of revelation and prophecy the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our great duty is so to live that we may be led constantly in light and truth by this Comforter so that we may not be deceived by the many false spirits that are in the world. I have never troubled myself about the Holy Ghost whether he will sometime have a body or not because it is not in any way essential to my salvation. He is a member of the Godhead, with great power and authority, with a most wonderful mission which must be performed by a spirit. This has satisfied me without delving into mysteries that would be of no particular benefit.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols., (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1954–56), 39.)

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No, The Holy Ghost Didn't Used to Have A Body

It is a popular apostate idea that the Holy Ghost had a body once, and is not having a separate situation of not having one. This ties into Adam God theory which is false.

They say the Holy Ghost needed to have had a body so to comfort others regarding the pains we go through on earth.

In reality, the Holy Ghost is the messenger of the Father and the Son, He is the Testator of truth. He conveys their message, it is not his own. Therefore, he needs not to have every experience to perform that function.

The only possible way I see him having a body in the past as a possibility is if he is merely awaiting his (one and only) resurrection. But this idea flies in the face of logic and revealed truth, as we know being separate from a body is a prison.

The conclusion is that the Holy Ghost must be in his pre-mortal state of the regular appointed time for such.

We do not need to perform for an eternity as a human, then as a Holy Ghost, then as a Jesus Christ, then as a Heavenly Father, each with its own accompanying mortality! We are joint heirs with Christ. We are saviors on mount Zion. Our path in the plan of salvation is TYPICAL as demonstrated by the Godhead:

In the premortal world, we testified of Christ similarly as the Holy Ghost does.

In this life, we serve others and work miracles, similar as Christ did in his mortal life.

In the post-mortal life, we will, as joint heirs with Christ, inherit all Heavenly Father has, and do whatever they do, worlds without end (and what they do is govern systems in which their ever increasing posterity live on).

So now you see, each position in the Godhead is typical of the 3 positions of the plan of salvation we are NOW passing through! Pre-mortal, mortal, and post-mortal.

Its like the book Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card. The whole time, the main character things he is getting ready for some future thing, but (spoiler alert!), he learns that the whole time he has been fighting the real battles. Before he "begins", it is over. Are we performing at our best now? Oh how we must! Is this not the message of the prophets? Repentance is part of our plan of salvation based on the inherent weakness designed into our flesh, but we are genuinely expected to overcome through Christ, to in reality develop Christ-like attributes in this life. The April 2021 General Conference drove this home, that we aren't just looking to become perfect in the next life, we are to obey the command to "be ye therefore perfect." Others of our race have developed Christ's attributes,

and therefore, so can, and so must, we. It is within our capacity. Well did Joseph Smith teach that if we are to expect to gain salvation, we must get it in the same way that Christ got it, by obedience to law (see TPJS).

So what then do we make of this and other Adam-God related theories, supposedly taught in the past by leaders of the church? We dismiss them on their grounds of not squaring with the scriptures nor the words of the living prophets. To express these views is to demonstrate a lack of spiritual knowledge and maturity.

Scriptural Serpent Symbol : Christs Truth & Satan's Imitation

- Moses lifted up such as a type of Christ in the wilderness for people to look to it and live
- used to have legs for it was given him a curse to go on his belly. He would not be on his belly already if that was not the case. Although, this may all be symbolic.
- women naturally have a fear of snakes. An enmity between them and snakes.
- type of Christ which Satan is subverting; God creates, Satan imitates.
- 2Ne24:29 Fiery flying serpent=type of Christ footnote
- Ogden OT vol. 1 pg43 and Moses 4:10-11
- counterfeit symbol used by Satan
- Matt.10:16 serpent is wise, and disciples commanded to be wise as such

A Poem Contemplating Eternity

Are we supposed to harness what we like or to find the correct things to like? I suppose a little bit of both is true we need to align our moral standards with the gospel while pursuing our talents and hobbies and interests; one of the Divine things that we need to do is find happiness.

In the beginning there were unorganized intelligence, then we became organized. That process goes on to this day. We want to be more organized intelligence; I see that there is no excuse and the organization of one's self is so critical.

I see that any person including myself can and should and ought to, within the perfect parameters of reason, create things that change the world forever.

These creations are not told to you by someone else; it's something that you determine; you create them and they are Divine and you don't need any help; you can't wait around sitting for someone to tell you what to do; you have to act on every little inclination.

Read every book that comes to your attention, spell out every idea that comes to your mind, talk to every person that seems like someone you need to talk to.

God will let you suffer more bitterly than you ever thought possible because you need to experience exactly what you don't want to experience, and to question the one thing that you should never question. If you can pass through that, you can be free.

You can open the doors of the mind and find expression and meaning in deeper levels than you even knew existed.

You can embrace forms of intelligence; you can find never tapped into dimensions of joy; what you wanted, but didn't know where to look for.

You'll be more tired and more depressed; more happy and full of energy; you'll be who you forever aspired to be.

When everything seems for nothing, just then, it all bursts open into a panoramic view of divinity; not just a Divinity sitting in the sky watching you, but a Divinity that Wells up inside you, and bursts and permeates the atmosphere around you.

This is when the Divinity that does sit above looking down smiles for a moment.

It doesn't have to make sense right now, you just have to keep going.

Then it's quiet, and you are alone again. You try to remember how it felt to be alive.

Then you stop caring, because feelings seem to be second class citizens in the world of desperation. The suffering of the world comes painfully into view.

Then you ponder and wait, and sometimes you see him again - around the corner of your eyes, you meet for a moment, and you know everything will be okay.

He reminds you in that instant that former things are over, and there's no going back. You are free, but the past gives you the motivation you need to contemplate the future. The permission and the power to not be mortally wounded by it anymore. Nay no more, not by the past, the present, or the future. The force fields of glory today burst upon thee!



Straining at Particles of Light: Premortal Life and the Mansions of Memory by Terryl Givens – Lecture Highlights

I share the following highlights with permission of the author.

This lecture focused on the history of Western philosophy and religion's treatment of the doctrine of pre-mortality. It brings not only historical understanding, but deeper insights into pre-mortality, and evidences for the same.

When we live beneath our truest self, we are sharply aware that we have betrayed ourselves.

What prompts repentance is not thought of the future but thought of the past the idea that we are not living up to what we truly are that we are not manifesting what we are at our core what we once were. This is what inspires people to suddenly make major life altering decisions to change their lives for the better the sense of knowing that we betrayed our potential our nature ourselves.

John Knox speaks of the reference to the self as being evidence of a birth before birth that we are an entity which has existed before birth. We can easily refer to ourselves and contemplate ourselves this is evidence that the I goes deeper then the date of birth. The sentence I was born suggests that the I superseded the being born

We long for God because he exists on the same plane as all of our deepest loves and exists in the memory all of this suggests that we knew him once. Our inner yearnings can only be satiated with him.

Those who seek God and happiness must have been happy once. to remember that means it must have been imprinted on the memory at some point. this suggests that we once knew God and true happiness, that is why we are seeking it oh, both the happiness and God, it is why we associate the one with the other because we used to know them both simultaneously they only existed simultaneously.

Nature and art constantly remind you of something. Augustus said that these faint intimations suggest a life before Earth where we lived in God's presence.

The removal of God from comprehensibility to in comprehensibility and from accessibility to inaccessibility as well as the doctrine of creation ex nihilo have contributed to the erasure of pre mortality from doctrines of churches today.

Immanuel Kant implied a premortal existence as a rational basis for the concept of human agency

Edward Beecher in the 19th century wrote almost a thousand pages on the topic of pre mortality as a rationale for the justice of God. it explains our immersion in a life of sin pain and suffering.

Someone said that perhaps reason is to skin deep and science does not go back far enough. In other words this suggests that there are things more profound than human reason.

Our ability to comprehend microscopic subatomic particles and macroscopic theories of the creation and of themselves are evidence but the human being is a much more powerful and complex and ancient creature then mere reason could suggest.

It is a truism to say that the most primitive man drew a picture of the monkey but the most intelligent monkey cannot draw a picture of a man the human is something different something special something deeper and farther beyond the rest of the animal kingdom

The human creature is truly unique and different from all other creatures

The emergence of the human mind cannot be explained in the same methods of the emergence of the minds of all other animals

What it means to be human is to take seriously the subjective the inner the personal experience of an individual human being

Our private hopes and private experience is what ultimately defines us.

Keats spoke of straining at particles of light spoke of being in the dark and straining at particles of light.

Even Freud acknowledged that everyone has a desire to connect to reconnect with something eternal and oceanic. This is why the doctrine of pre-existing has never fully died out.

There are things more fundamentally human than syllogistic argument.

Emperor's priests and secularists have tried to expunge the idea of pre-existence from Western thought but yet it persists.

The oldest religion we know of is that of Mesopotamia they speak of the gods convening to create the humans; It speaks of a minor race of deities being on the earth doing the work of the supreme gods; They dig the land move around the Earth tends to those things what's the labor become so great that they conspire against the seven supreme gods. They decide to make humans out of clay tabernacles and I take one of the gods and sacrifice that God and put his Spirit into the humans. The Mesopotamian legend says that our memory of our earlier existence remains but it's very cloudy so that we don't threaten the dominion of the gods.

The Greek philosopher (Aristotle?) laments how he has fallen from greatness to come to Earth how things used to be better but now there's toil; he wrote that human love is an echo I've been earlier love of perfect beauty; he said beauty can only be experienced by someone who has seen as much in heaven; he speaks of how when one finds their soulmate they want to be together but how every person even who has found this soul mate yet longs for something greater.

Tertullian thought that the doctrine of pre-existence was dangerous because it made us too much like God.

Tertullian said 'how could we forget all of that premortal stuff? There must not be premortality.' The Cambridge platonists responded to Tertullian's doubt of pre mortality, 'why is it surprising that we would forget premortality when even during this life we forget so much?'

Henry Moore was certain of the pre mortality that the mind could remember God

He spoke of this memory being natural and essential to the soul of man and that this memory cannot be washed away. He wrote that pre mortality is the most logical explanation

Benjamin Whichcoat(?) and Nathaniel Coverwell(?): They speak of seeds of light scattered in The souls of man which brings forth a numerous and sparkling posterity.

Descartes also speaks of these things.

Kant says there are only two things was really astound him the starry skies above and the moral law inside him he ponders on wear that moral law inside him could have come from. It was not a simple social or cultural acquisition.

He speaks of an intuitive sense of self this is not a logical button intuitive thing.

He says that a being with infinite nature infinite potential could not have just come into being by happenstance, a being so great whose Life begin in such trivial circumstance.

He says that we lived in a world of spiritual nature's which didn't begin at birth and will not end at death.

Babylonians say that the veil between us and God was for the gods to keep us away from them but Christians say that that veil is an act of Mercy on behalf of God.

The English poet Abel Evans conceived of the entire human race being the fallen Angels. He says that God cast us all out but lets us expiate our crimes with time served on Earth.

Reason and memory feed but cannot satisfy our articulate longing for home

he speaks of how if we had retained our memory of the prior existence we would have been all the more miserable on this Earth due to the contrast of how great it is there and how difficult it is here.

Goethe said that there were stages of pre-existence on the way to a glorious future. He spoke of his memories of the pre-existence being so strong that it is the greatest evidence for God. he said if there is not a god perhaps there will yet be one.

In the romantic era we hear Wordsworth who writes of trailing clouds Of Glory to come to this earth how being born on this Earth was not the

beginning. Latter-day saints celebrate this poetry, but generations of scholars have been embarrassed by it. He speaks of how despite the beauty of this earth and the joy of the laughter of children there is yet in this life a sense of nagging loss. He speaks of how certain things have passed away. He speaks of how our birth is a loss of a greater Eden that we once knew. Some pressured Wordsworth to let go of this view of pre-existence and he was embarrassed about it sometimes but he still argued that there was nothing in Scripture to contradict it. He says that if we remembered the pre-existence everyone would bear testimony of it.

The idea of pre mortality starts from inner reflection an event such as watching a sleeping child. This and not logical deduction is the starting point of faith in pre mortality.

Wilhelm Benicke (?) (about 35 min in to hear again how to spell that name) was a businessman stricken by a tragedy lost his wife and child and could not understand why life involve so much suffering then a mysterious mentor appeared and taught him that this life is a short time between pre mortality and immortality. He spoke of this man having an apostolic countenance.

Original sin and human suffering can really only be explained by the doctrine of pre mortality this is what 1 renowned philosopher argued named Benicke(?)

Because this is a fallen world and the otherworld is an eternal one there is to be Revelation if there is to be any communication between the realms.

Our powers of reason and sensation are insufficient to penetrate the eternal world.

Religions of the western world are so inhospitable to the doctrine of pre mortality that people reject the idea without a good reason.

John chapter 9 is one of the many scriptural allusions to pre mortality the apostles clearly assumed that there was a pre-existing life when they asked who sinned this man or his parents. Some say that this simplistic explanation pre mortality for this chapter is too simple but those who value spirituality simplicity has never been a barrier to beauty.

Kant said that one of the proofs that we have human agency is that when he does something wrong he feels guilt that guilt suggests that he could have done something different.

[Click here](#) for the full lecture.

PART 3: THE ATONEMENT OF CHRIST

“All mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.”



Cleon Skousen – Meaning of the Atonement

Lecture – Highlights

Notes on a lecture found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ1DqEYohnE&list=PL1C7AHN3uipOJLgEf66i0u3imwjaFk0N>

See Cleon's book *The First 2000 Years* an Appendix called *Why Was The Atonement Necessary* (pg352) for the write up this lecture is based on. Cleon's mission president was Elder Widstoe who put him on a long (about a decade or two) scripture chase to find this out, occasionally giving hints of where to look. He compiled his findings as instructed by Widstoe in his book.

Mark 14:36

Christ is told: All you created will go back to chaos if you don't perform the atonement, but you have the choice. He chose to do it.

Luke 22:44

Matt 26 thy will be done

2 Ne. 2:14

D&C 93:30

Your I Am is an always existing little intelligence in you.

Intelligence is independent (verse)

Abe. 3:19-23

DHC 4:519 Joseph Smith: says he taught a thing but doesn't explain it, we read the others on what he said.

JD 7:2 Brigham Young: element receives Intelligence



There are 2 building blocks: things to act and things to be acted upon.
Element is to be acted upon.
Intelligence is to act.

Alma 42 God could cease to be god
Mormon 9:19 God could cease to be god
Jesus says honor is his power.
He is a god of love but also of justice or his intelligences would lose confidence in him.

Abe. 4:9,10,12,14 element responds to commands it has Intelligence

2 Ne. 9:7-9 what happens if there wasn't an atonement. Be cast back naked intelligence. Lord said never teach they get a second chance I've never authorized that.

Alma 34:11 one can't pay for another. Atonement isn't x suffering for x sin. Jon kills, we don't call it ok if Tom pays Tom's life for it. The key is one infinitely (universally) loved is sacrificed so as to trigger compassion in us all. It's that persuasive, so those who are offended say "you died for him, if he means that much to you, ok, I no longer hold him to it"

See around min 103.

(Note: I'm not sure on this point, there is the verse by Amulek saying one can't pay for another, but there are many teachings that it is an x amount of debt paid for. Perhaps there's truth in both.)

When you cry being touched when hearing something that's the spirit talking to you that k god for having spoken to you.

The name of the son, not the father, is the only be we gain salvation by. Father couldn't save us.

We force, but God talks, and is obeyed.

Once dead, Jesus became the Christ. Only once he won the fight. He was terrified and asked for a way out, but chose to follow through when he saw there was no other way to save his creations.

D&C 45:3

Abe Lincoln showed compassion overcoming justice. A man sentenced to die was spared as he was the only surviving son of a mother.

After the atonement complete Christ was very excited about it that he pulled it off he told people not to waste it.

Growing up Jesus learned more about what it meant to be the son of God and have that power. He commanded things and they obeyed. He wrote and thanked his father for showing him that power.

God Has No Opposite!

God isn't worried. The Devil is God's Devil. He is on a leash. There is no opposite to God! He is above all! Satan is Michael's opposite. God permits the chaos; God uses sin sinlessly. God allows agency to all, and some use it for evil, and this allowance is part of God's plan to try us in the face of adversity, though God does step in when things get really bad. Sometimes, God's justice comes in after death, but it does come to all. Agency allows a just judgement. Faith in God means trust, trust that He is in charge, and that all will be well if we follow his team rather than Satans promises. There is no opposite to God, no chance that He will lose. At this level, there is no 'dualism', or 'competition'.

The Atonement of Jesus Christ: Teachings of the Prophets

- Jesus the Christ by Talmage says Christ on cross at 9am, then at noon the clouds darken, from 12-3 he is suffering all that happened in Gethsemane but “intensified”. Fetal position is the way we are in our most pain; the cross pain was intensified more than Gethsemane perhaps because he could not be in the fetal position.
- Isaiah says Christ’s face became marred more than any other man.
- Isaiah says they plucked off Christ’s hair.
- the word Gethsemane: shemen is oil, geth is press, it means olive/oil press.
- Matthew 26:38 severe depression; Jesus feels such pain that he feels he is going to die.
- imagine an olive getting crushed by a large rock, this is like what the Atonement was.
- sins don’t bring pleasure, they bring weight consequences, hence the Atonement of Christ had a crushing weight on him.
- D&C 19 says if we repent we won’t suffer; God is saying that he suffered to a greater degree for our sins than we have ever known. Jesus went through hell for us, suffering the pains of a damned soul.
- D&C 76:107 Jesus experiences the fullness of God’s wrath in the Atonement.
- Elder Maxwell said that Jesus is more intelligent than the combined intelligence of the rest of the human race. Where much is given much is required. Abraham speaks of the pre-mortal intelligences, Jesus was the greatest of them all.
- “Thus, such was the torturing pressure of this intense, this indescribable agony, that it burst forth abroad beyond the confines of His body, convulsed all nature and spread throughout all space” (John Taylor, Mediation and Atonement, 151–52; Quoted in the Doctrines of the Gospel student manual Ch 9 on the Atonement at <https://www.lds.org/manual/doctrines-of-the-gospel-student-manual/chapter-9-the-atonement-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng>); Thus we see that the Atonement hurt him so bad it was more than just bodily pain, he experienced all sorts of pain which only a God can to the extent he did.
- Elder Faust said that Jesus was crying in Gethsemane, his tears mingling with his blood.
- Elder Maxell speaks of the angel strengthening Christ in the Atonement being Adam, I believe another source says otherwise, Seth or Abel perhaps.
- Brigham Young taught that when Jesus walked into Gethsemane God cast a veil over Gethsemane, hence Jesus in there would say as we see in Matthew 26 that he thinks he is going to die there. Also Jesus would not have bled if God was with him.

-Jacob says Abraham and Isaac are a similitude of God and Christ in the Atonement, it would perhaps be harder to be the father slaying his son, than the son submitting to the will of the father in all things. Hence Jesus says, "Glory be to the Father".

-when you study about the Atonement, you get the desire to be nice to everyone and be good. Try it.

-when you understand Christ's sacrifice more, you'll have more internal change; like Alma the younger feeling the pains of a damned soul, then having Jesus deliver him, recognizing then and forever the role of Jesus Christ in the Atonement for us.

-when you think of Jesus' Atonement, you want to not be as flippant about the attitude "I can sin now and repent later", you want to be more careful about your actions, more thoughtful about what you do.

-when you feel uplifted by Christ, those are the times to make your life decisions, don't make deceptions in depression times.

-Jesus is the only one who has walked out life path, so trust him have faith in him.

-Jesus was a pre-mortal God without a body, just like the Holy Ghost is currently a God, must be pre-mortal, without a body. Then Jesus condescends, he comes to earth, he is a baby dependent on his mother entirely.

-the angel came to the Christ in the atonement and said perhaps you don't have to do this but if you don't all things you created those worlds, animals, humans, plants, etc., go back to inexistence, back to dust. You don't have to do this; the Father knew you would do it that's why He sent you. The only way to complete the Father's will is by doing this.

-Christ wept after healing Lazarus from death perhaps in realizing how much God the Father would do for him, what being "The Son" is all about.

-why does salvation come only through the Son, not the Father? Only the name of Jesus Christ? It's because Jesus Christ created us.

-the atonement is infinite; in Alma 34:11-12 it says that when one is killed, the life of the murderer is required. AKA, every guilty person must pay. Thus the atonement of Christ had to not just be representative, he had to literally take upon himself the punishment for each and every crime committed. Every debt had to be paid. Every crime had to be punished. Christ stood in the place for all of the murderers not all at once, but one by one. Each beating was mandated for justice to be realized. God is just. "He that ruleth over men must be just" cried the psalmist.

-LDS Guide to the scriptures "ATONE, ATONEMENT":

See also Blood; Children of Christ; Cross; Crucifixion; Fall of Adam and Eve; Forgive; Gethsemane; Grace; Immortal, Immortality; Jesus Christ; Justification, Justify; Merciful, Mercy; Plan of Redemption; Redeem, Redeemed, Redemption; Remission of Sins; Repent, Repentance; Resurrection; Sacrament; Sacrifice; Salvation; Sanctification; Sons and Daughters of God

To reconcile man to God.

As used in the scriptures, to atone is to suffer the penalty for an act of sin, thereby removing the effects of sin from the repentant sinner and allowing him to be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ was the only one capable of making a perfect atonement for all mankind. He was able to do so because of his selection and foreordination in the Grand Council before the world was formed (Ether 3:14; Moses 4:1–2; Abr. 3:27), his divine Sonship, and his sinless life. His atonement included his suffering for the sins of mankind in the Garden of Gethsemane, the shedding of his blood, and his death and subsequent resurrection from the grave (Isa. 53:3–12; Mosiah 3:5–11; Alma 7:10–13). Because of the Atonement, all people will rise from the dead with immortal bodies (1 Cor. 15:22). The Atonement also provides the way for us to be forgiven of our sins and live forever with God. But a person who has reached the age of accountability and received the law can receive these blessings only if he has faith in Jesus Christ, repents of his sins, receives the ordinances of salvation, and obeys the commandments of God. Those who do not reach the age of accountability and those without the law are redeemed through the Atonement (Mosiah 15:24–25; Moro. 8:22). The scriptures clearly teach that if Christ had not atoned for our sins, no law, ordinance, or sacrifice would satisfy the demands of justice, and man could never regain God’s presence (2 Ne. 2; 9). This is my blood, shed for many for the remission of sins: Matt. 26:28; His sweat was as it were great drops of blood: Luke 22:39–44; I will give my flesh for the life of the world: John 6:51; I am the resurrection, and the life: John 11:25; Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey: Heb. 5:9; We are sanctified by the shedding of the blood of Christ: Heb. 9; Heb. 10:1–10; Christ also hath once suffered for sins: 1 Pet. 3:18; The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin: 1 Jn. 1:7; He was lifted up upon the cross and slain for sins: 1 Ne. 11:32–33; Redemption comes to those who have a broken heart and contrite spirit: 2 Ne. 2:3–10, 25–27; He offered himself a sacrifice for sin: 2 Ne. 2:7; The Atonement ransoms men from the Fall and saves them from death and hell: 2 Ne. 9:5–24; It must needs be an infinite atonement: 2 Ne. 9:7; Be reconciled unto God through the Atonement of Christ: Jacob 4:11; His blood atones for the sins of those who have ignorantly sinned: Mosiah 3:11–18; Man received salvation through the Atonement: Mosiah 4:6–8; Were it not for the Atonement, they must unavoidably perish: Mosiah 13:27–32; He shall atone for the sins of the world: Alma 34:8–16; God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy:

Alma 42:11–30;

I am the God of the whole earth, slain for the sins of the world:3 Ne. 11:14;

I, God, have suffered these things for all: D&C 19:16;

Little children are redeemed through mine Only Begotten: D&C 29:46–47;

Behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin: D&C 45:3–5;

This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten: Moses 5:7;

Through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved: A of F 1:3;”

(See Guide to The Scriptures: Atone, Atonement

<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/gs/atone-atonement?lang=eng>

Oneness of God, Fall of Adam, & Atonement of Christ

(Some of these things are from Robert Millet's book/lectures Doctrines of the Book of Mormon, they are all based on scripture and modern prophets. More about Millet: he is professor of ancient scripture and emeritus Dean of Religious Education at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah. Millet is a Latter-day Saint author and speaker with more than 60 published works on virtually all aspects of Mormonism. Millet co-founded the evangelical-Mormon dialogue.)

-Christ inherited the power of his father; this we can inherit if we are faithful in Christ

-Christ speaks in the first person as though he were the father at times, we call it divine investiture. For example on section of the D&C has Christ speaking where he says by the power of his only begotten son he redeemed the world. He is speaking a message from his father.

-consider that we get a new tongue, the tongue of angels when we live the gospel. Recall that angels speak the words of Christ.

-at one General Conference Elder Bruce R McConkie said that he felt impressed that if Christ were at their meeting he would have said the very same words that the prophet had spoken at that conference.

-in the book of Moses when Moses speaks with God, prophets have clarified that he is speaking with Jesus Christ, and that occasion Christ is speaking with divine investiture, speaking in the first person as the Father, having authority of the Father to speak in his name.

-why divine investiture used at times? To show the total oneness of the Father and the Son. They are separate people, but they work together as one God. They are on the same mission. Christ inherited from the Father all the powers and attributes of the Father, and can go and represent Him at times.

-Christ created us hence he is called the Father. Christ is the Son of the most high God; hence he is called the Son of God. Hence, we see as in Mosiah 15, Christ is both the Father and the Son. He has these two titles. But he is a separate person from God the Father Elohim.

-Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the God of the Old testament, and Elohim is his father, who appears to introduce him at times.

-since the Fall of Adam rarely does God the Father Elohim come to speak directly with mankind. When he does it's only to introduce his son Jesus Christ and to tell people to hear him.

-James E Talmage in his book Jesus The Christ speaks of many prophets having Elohim and Jehovah appear to them, like happened with Joseph Smith and his first vision in the sacred grove, two persons descend and speak with him, the Father points to the other and says "this is my beloved Son, hear him!"

-The wonder of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that we can become one with God the Father and Jesus Christ just like they are one with each other.

-the Old Testament had this doctrine of the Godhead, these three persons who work together as God. In the Book of Mormon the prophet Zenos and Zeno testified that they are to worship the Father in the name of the Son. We have record of this in the Book of Mormon, though we don't have those texts in our current Old Testament. In the Book of Mormon it says the record with those prophets' writings, the brass plates which have a more complete Old Testament record in them, will go to all people. Hence we reason that they are yet to come forth to show the Jews and everyone else that Jesus Christ is Jehovah, and is the Son of Elohim, and these work together as being the God of creation.

- It will become even clearer to people the roles of the members of the Godhead in our salvation, and how indeed, God Himself, even Jehovah came down from his exalted throne, and walked among us. Hence Jesus said to the Pharisees, "before Abraham was, I am".

-the Atonement of Christ, his great sacrifice in the Garden of Gethsemane and on Calvary, John Taylor said that it was so painful that it filled the Universe. We can't comprehend how he was able to do it. He is God. No man could have done it.

-Elder Neil A. Maxwell calls the Atonement of Jesus Christ "intergalactic".

-Book of Mormon points out that Jesus Christ is not a man, he is a God. It prophecies that despite all he will do among men, they will still consider him a man, and reject him. That is the point- they think he is a man not God.

-when the Book of Mormon says salvation is free, it's to say that salvation is available. Like when we say, "The bathroom is free." It's to say, "the bathroom is available". You still have to pay the utilities bill to use your bathroom, but it is available should you choose to desire it.

-we must be born again into the kingdom of God

The Fall:

-no one likes to take medication who doesn't understand that they are sick. The Fall of Adam causes us to need the Atonement of Christ. Without the Fall of Adam there would be no need for the Atonement of Christ.

-the Fall was a positive thing, one prophet called it downward but foreword.

-the garden of Eden was like Disneyland, and Adam and Eve had a mission to do of raising children which they couldn't accomplish in there. They had to choose for themselves to subject themselves to the difficulties of the

circumstances in which they could have children in the telestial world. It was up to them, God didn't force it on them. God put them in a pleasant state, and they had to make the choice on their own account to

-one prophet, Joseph Fielding Smith if I'm not mistaken, has suggested we read of the Garden of Eden this way, of the trees of the garden thou mayest freely (without consequence) eat. But of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not (freely, without consequence) eat.

-hence it was not such a situation of conflicting commandments from God, it was a situation where God had a mission for mankind, and said in essence said to them, you can do this if you want. It's going to be hard so I'm going to let you choose for yourselves if you are going to do it. If you choose to do it, you must leave the Garden of Eden and eventually experience death, that is part of the plan.

-the fall was not sexual relations between Adam and Eve, prophets have made that clear.

-people are not accountable until they reach the age of accountability, 8 years old.

-in the Book of Mormon it speaks of how our natures are fallen because of the Fall of Adam- that our natures have become evil continually, see Ether.

-Book of Mormon says that children are saved in Christ. Can a child do bad? Well some children at age 7 have murdered their brother, etc. But while this would be considered sin to other people, to the child of age 7 it is not considered sin, for Christ atones for it. He covers all of the children, and doesn't hold them accountable.

-while we don't believe in original sin (having sins at birth), we believe the seeds of such are in us, and that when we grow up we will sin. Everyone sins except for Jesus Christ the God.

-Jesus Christ covers children until the age of accountability, at that point they are capable to choose for themselves whether they will be good or evil.

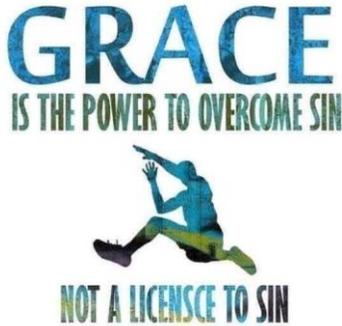
-D&C says that if parents don't teach children the gospel of Jesus Christ by age 8, the sin is upon the heads of the parents.

-often in the Book of Mormon it says that we are "lost" because of the Fall of Adam. Lost implies that we don't know where we are, that we have no family. Then we come to Christ and we are adopted back into the royal family, we take upon us the name of Christ. That is the name of this family. It's like when the prodigal son returns, a ring is put on his finger showing that he is part of the family, a son of the father, an heir of all the father has.

-there is "the fall of mankind", Jesus Christ has taken care of that with the Atonement, and then there is "the fall of me", and I need to take care of that by repentance and baptism and righteous living, the things that Jesus Christ has instructed that we must to merit his mercy.

-Thus we see that we sinful because of our parents, but we are responsible for our own sin, see Article of Faith 2.

Grace



(Image source unknown)

-there is an exit as well as an entrance to hell and once the people have learned what they need there they will leave and there will be rejoicing welcoming him into a better state. –James E. Talmage, CR, April 1930, 97

(granted serious consequences exist for ignoring God in this life, like dropping down a kingdom. You won't remain in hell, but you'll miss out on the highest heaven. You can't postpone repentance and qualify for the greatest eternal rewards. For more on that see the discourse "The 7 Deadly Heresies" by Elder Bruce R McConkie. We rejoice in the knowledge that hell is a temporary abode, like a prison sentence, this is a glorious truth of the latter-days! We also caution the sons of perdition will remain forever in hell, however few of them there are; we also caution that qualifying for a middle kingdom instead of the highest, though it will be better than the lowest, knowing what you could have had but do not have will be a hell in and of itself. Lastly and foremost, rejoice at the grace of Christ, the great helper and giver of gifts! The righteous judge!)

-Those assigned to the Telestial Kingdom can't progress to the Celestial Kingdom (D&C 76:112)(McConkie "7 Deadly Heresies")

-sin appears easy, Lucifer is handsome persuasive, easy friendly, getting us trapped inch by inch, drop by drop. April 1967 p66 CR President Kimball

-A man is his own condemner and tormenter, hence the saying they will go into a lake of fire and brimstone. Disappointment of the mind is as exquisite as a lake burning with fire. TPJS, 357

–" Only the obedient are `raised in immortality unto eternal life.'" (Mormon Doctrine, p. 234.)

-Mercy is not getting in trouble for something we deserve, grace is getting help with something we can't do. -Robert L Millet

-there is an exit as well as an entrance to hell and once the people have learned what they need there they will leave and there will be rejoicing welcoming him into a better state. –James E. Talmage, CR, April 1930, 97

-Repenting doesn't deliver us from all suffering; sin brings pain. That is that. But if we repent, we won't have to suffer the full extent of the consequence of that sin ("Sin and Suffering," BYU 1989-1990 Devotional and Fireside Speeches, 149.) .

Why We Need a Savior: God's Plan vs. Lucifer's Tyranny by Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Excerpts from BYU Devotional on Dec. 12, 2017 titled "A Message at Christmas".

I have found this to be one of the most excellent lectures on the plan of salvation.

–For the official summary of the lecture by BYU (supposedly going to be updated in the near future to the full text of the speech), and the full audio and video recordings, use this URL: https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/d-todd-christofferson_a-message-at-christmas/

This is a brilliant lecture including points such as God being the representative of justice, Lucifer's desire to be a law unto himself (and what that means), mercy defined as justice fulfilled by a third party, the absolute requirement of repentance for salvation.

There has not been a full text released on this yet, here are my notes:

-Why can't God just save us, he loves us can't he do anything he wants? Why do we need a Savior? This is an ancient philosophy, Nehor taught that in the end all will be saved, don't worry about it, God loves everyone so much that everyone will be saved.

However, God is God because he is just.

-If there were no laws with punishments and rewards, our choices would be useless.

We need to know that if we do 1 thing, we get 1 outcome, if another, another.

-Well what of the good person? Obstacle death, and even the best don't meet all just expectations, and no unclean thing can dwell with God.

-Lucifer didn't just want slight alteration to the plan, he didn't want to be the Savior, he wanted to delete the Savior roll from the plan; he wanted to be a law unto himself rather than helping justice and mercy occur. He would change the rules at his will, and nothing would be predictable, things would be changing based on his whims, our choices would become vain without repercussions. He wanted the power and glory without putting in the work.

From the BYU summary (not the full text), here is the part about the need of a Savior:

“Then Elder Christofferson shared an experience he had when a long-time

member of the church asked him why she needed a Savior if she was a good person. Elder Christofferson admitted he was shocked at her lack of understanding, but he explained that we all need resurrection and redemption. He acknowledged that, asked another way, the woman could have been asking something like, “If God is all-powerful and all-loving, why can’t He just save us all Himself. Why did God need a Savior for us?” Elder Christofferson identified this way of thinking as similar to Nehor the antichrist’s teachings, and the proposition of the devil in the premortal life. If everyone was saved regardless of actions, then there would be no personal growth and no choices. “[The Father’s plan] requires accountability for choices made—otherwise they aren’t really choices. Choice, in turn, requires law, or predictable outcomes,” Elder Christofferson said. “We must be able by a particular action or choice to cause a particular outcome or result and by the opposite choice create the opposite outcome. If actions don’t have fixed consequences, then one has no control over outcomes and choice is meaningless.” Elder Christofferson taught that eternal laws are what make choices and consequences possible. God is a just God and governs according to law. We, His children, are not capable of keeping all the laws and enduring the consequences for incorrect choices. So God created mercy and a Savior, Jesus Christ, to fulfill the requirement of law and to extend mercy to all of us. “So the answer to our question is no, God cannot act any way He pleases to save a person. He must do it in a way that upholds immutable law, and thanks be to God, he has done so by providing a Savior,” Elder Christofferson said.”

Christ Symbols in Animal Sacrifice of the Law of Moses

I understand that many, including myself, are hurt when animals are killed. I want to offer some explanations for why this took place in The Law of Moses. If you're interested in more info on a plant based diet, particularly a perspective of church leaders and other great scientists who all discourage the use of meat etc., see "Discovering the Word of Wisdom" by Jane Birch. Here we will look at animal sacrifice and the law of Moses.

-There is no animal which God will not raise from the dead! God will raise all animals from the dead! If he wants to take the life of an animal, a lesser intelligence, to illustrate a critical teaching to the higher intelligences which they could not get any other way, the understanding of Jesus Christ, then it is his power to do so. He created all creatures. Death is come upon all of them. Life, also, is come upon all of them. In the resurrection, even they shall rise. An animal is going to die weather by getting eaten, or starvation, or the pains of old age. If God wants to slay it on an altar, it's just as well. God not only created the animals, but he created you also. So don't complain about how he chooses to do things. We are little children trying to understand the workings of a parent. Eventually all doubt as to why God chose to do things this way will be removed from us, and all the facts will be before us, and we will wonder why we were ever so skeptical of our loving Father in Heaven.

(references showing animals to be resurrected, see Prophecy key to the future by Crowther, and the Book of Mormon states it plainly)

-Another idea is that learning about God's sacrifice for mankind via the animal sacrifice symbols was hard to lose those animals, but it's even worse to lose a human soul, which would occur if people forgot about God's role in their salvation. It's so critical that people understand, that we are doing something dramatic, killing an animal, to try and get them to understand. There are higher and lower life forms. The highest life forms are human beings. It is worse to lose the soul of a person than the life of an animal.

-An idea Dr. Jordan Peterson gives is that killing an animal was showing that you were serious about keeping your commitment. Sacrifice always accompanies devotion/dedication. Today we have few to no symbols for showing serious commitment.

-The following is an excerpt from a brilliant address on this subject, the why of ancient biblical animal sacrifice, from Elder Holland in an address titled

“Behold the Lamb of God” (2019, April General Conference). The full text is available in text video and audio: <https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2019/04/28holland?lang=eng>

“Looking up from water’s edge, past the eager crowds seeking baptism at his hand, John, called the Baptist, saw in the distance his cousin, Jesus of Nazareth, striding resolutely toward him to make a request for that same ordinance. Reverently, but audible enough for those nearby to hear, John uttered the admiration that still moves us two millennia later: “Behold the Lamb of God.”¹ It is instructive that this long-prophesied forerunner to Jesus did not call Him “Jehovah” or “Savior” or “Redeemer” or even “the Son of God”—all of which were applicable titles. No, John chose the earliest and perhaps most commonly recognized image in the religious tradition of his people. He used the figure of a sacrificial lamb offered in atonement for the sins and sorrows of a fallen world and all the fallen people in it.

Please indulge me in recalling just a little of that history.

After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve faced a devastating future. Having opened the door to mortality and temporal life for us, they had closed the door to immortality and eternal life for themselves. Due to a transgression they had consciously chosen to make in our behalf, they now faced physical death and spiritual banishment, separation from the presence of God forever.² What were they to do? Would there be a way out of this plight? We are not certain just how much these two were allowed to remember of the instruction they received while still in the garden, but they did remember they were to regularly offer for a sacrifice unto God a pure, unblemished lamb, the first male born of their flock.³

Later an angel came to explain that this sacrifice was a type, a prefiguration of the offering that would be made in their behalf by the Savior of the world who was to come. “This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father,” the angel said. “Wherefore, . . . thou shalt repent and call upon God in the name of the Son forevermore.”⁴ Fortunately, there was going to be a way out and a way up.

In the premortal councils of heaven, God had promised Adam and Eve (and all the rest of us) that help would come from His pure, unblemished Firstborn Son, the Lamb of God “slain from the foundation of the world,”⁵ as the Apostle John would later describe Him. By offering their own little symbolic lambs in mortality, Adam and his posterity were expressing their understanding of and their dependence upon the atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Anointed One.⁶ Later, the wilderness tabernacle would become the setting for this ordinance and, after that, the temple that Solomon would build.

Unfortunately, as a symbol of genuine repentance and faithful living, this ritualistic offering of unblemished little lambs didn’t work very well, as so much of the Old Testament reveals. The moral resolve that should have accompanied those sacrifices sometimes didn’t last long enough for the blood to dry upon the

stones. In any case, it didn't last long enough to preclude fratricide, with Cain killing his brother Abel in the first generation.⁷

With such trials and troubles going on for centuries, no wonder the angels of heaven sang for joy when, finally, Jesus was born—the long-promised Messiah Himself. Following His brief mortal ministry, this purest of all Passover sheep prepared His disciples for His death by introducing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, a more personal form of the ordinance that had been introduced just outside of Eden. There would still be an offering, it would still involve a sacrifice, but it would be with symbolism much deeper, much more introspective and personal than the bloodletting of a firstborn lamb. To the Nephites, after His Resurrection, the Savior said of this:

“Ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood. ...

“... Ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost. ...

“... Therefore repent, ... and be saved.”⁸

My beloved brothers and sisters, with the exciting new emphasis on increased gospel learning in the home, it is crucial for us to remember that we are still commanded to “go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day.”⁹ In addition to making time for more home-centered gospel instruction, our modified Sunday service is also to reduce the complexity of the meeting schedule in a way that properly emphasizes the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the sacred, acknowledged focal point of our weekly worship experience. We are to remember in as personal a way as possible that Christ died from a heart broken by shouldering entirely alone the sins and sorrows of the whole human family.

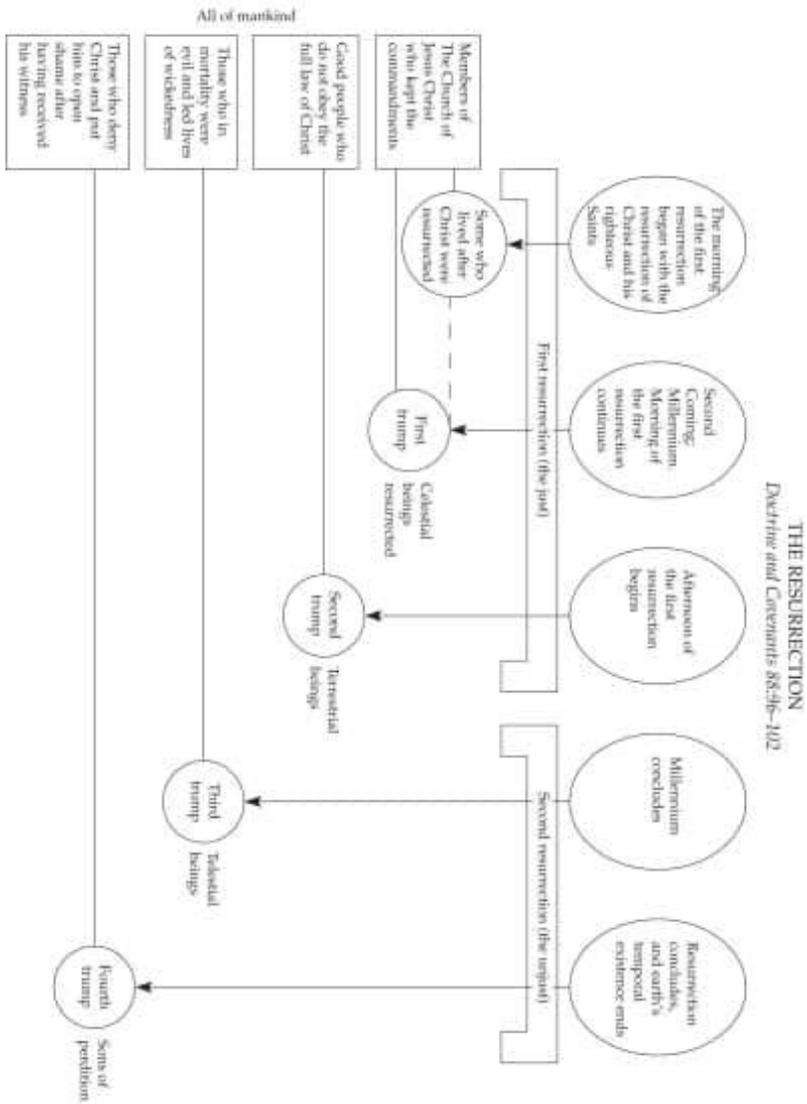
Inasmuch as we contributed to that fatal burden, such a moment demands our respect.”

PART 5: AFTER LIFE

The Better World We've Been Hoping For
Onward to eternal perfection.



Resurrection Chart from Doctrines of the Gospel Manual Ch. 32



Delicate Friendships to Be Restored

Do we always love those we once loved? Are friends so easily lost? It seems so, though we know we must move on with reality. But we hope that in the next life we can be friends. May heaven restore the delicate things which could not remain in this fallen land. May we learn one by one to love all people as we love ourselves. May we view one another in positive light, giving the benefit of the doubt, for once we saw each other as equals and had great joy with one another.

The Millennium & Heaven: Eternal Sunday? Boring?

One friend mentioned that she might not be so interested in heaven if it's just harps and clouds all the time, Sunday on repeat forever. This friend specifically asked about pets and eating in heaven among other things. Here is my response: Lol. All I can say is study the teachings of Joseph Smith all you can. Look up Truman G Madsen lectures on Joseph.

Heaven is a lot of work and that scares people. Brigham Young said if the streets in heaven are paved good, it was the saints who paved them.

There's also eternal parenting (can you count the stars?) and creating worlds out of broken down unorganized matter.

Imagine having mastery of every science and knowing all history and psychology to the point that you can with confidence predict the future of individuals and societies. Imagine having command of every musical instrument.

Imagine knowing all people, their names, their stories, and earning their friendship, and helping them progress to greater levels of joy until they have a fullness.

Here is the deal: there is no such thing as permanent Sunday. Sunday is when we reorient ourselves to the cosmos, to the more real eternal world. It is a day God rested from his labors. What's the point of permanent rest? There is none. Not even for God. He rests one in 7, not 7 in 7.

The notion that heaven is a boring place of singing dull hymns with uninterested neighbors is a lie of Satan.

Eating? Jesus ate fish with his apostles after he was resurrected. Perhaps you eat depending on what company you're in, weather you're helping mortals that day or planning with fellow gods that day.

Pets? Joseph Smith said the animals in the book of Revelation are both literal and figurative. Hugh Nibley says, drawing upon info from ancient documents, and ideas from evolutionary biology seen on this planet, not to mention animals evolving on other planets, that there are countless types of animals in heaven, such that we can't even imagine all that we will see there.

Heaven is a real place. It is a series of planets crowned with glory (intelligence, light, and truth). In the system of planets we belong to (MWG likely), the heaven planets are those located near planet Kolob. Further, there are telestial (like our earth), terrestrial, and celestial planets.

The residents of those planets have powerful bodies, to the degree of glory they attain. The highest glory includes the bodily privilege of procreation, a divine power which we now have some access to test us (here is divine power, will they handle it?). Brigham Young said every person (men and woman) who

reaches the 'unspeakable attainment' of exaltation in a celestial world, will be made as beautiful as the angels (male and female) that surround the throne of God.

We could go on and on, but suffice it to say that the new testament passage put it well when it said we can't even begin to imagine how awesome heaven will be.

Also, read life everlasting by Duane Crowther.

Here is the first of a lecture series by Truman g Madsen which will help shed light on the subject further: [Click here](#)

Why Aren't We "Raptured" Upon Conversion?

I heard a radio preacher this morning say this, and I'll tell you why he is wrong: "we live in the world, as Jesus said we would. Why doesn't got rapture us as soon as we are converted? Why isn't it that when we say, "I am a sinner, Jesus Christ, I commit myself to you." that we aren't raptured up to heaven immediately? It's because God is keeping us here to reach out to others." THAT'S WHAT THE PREACHER SAID. NOW I'LL TELL YOU THE CORRECT ANSWER.

God is keeping us here because WE'RE NOT DONE BEING TESTED, not because all there is left to do is to worry about other people. No, the quest for your soul is not over when you say, "Jesus is my Savior!" The scripture says, 'not everyone who says Lord Lord will enter into the kingdom'. It takes a lifetime of WORK to get full access to the GRACE. The sooner you repent, the better. Then keep repenting. Joseph Smith said he was like a rough stone rolling down a hill, getting rough edges knocked off as he goes, becoming a polished shaft for the quiver of the Lord. This preachers message deleted the need for repentance, and thus undermined the sacred gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing it down to the level of a mere game.

Longing to Belong by Bruce Hafen – Lecture Highlights

This complete discourse is found in the book “The Belonging Hearth: The Atonement and Relationships with God and Family” by Bruce Hafen, Ch. 1: The Longing to Belong

ing for home. And when we have paid the price of patient preparation, self-discipline, and an irrevocable commitment to another person's happiness, we can taste the sweet joy of authentic human love. The gospel's assurance that we can be encircled about *eternally* in the arms of this romantic love promises to fulfill our deepest longing for security and belonging—hopes expressed in the poetry and song of all our history.

The eternal emptiness of choosing through disobedience to fill no family chairs at all is captured in these sobering words: “Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all the day long; and there shall be no might in thine hand.” (Deuteronomy 28:32.)

If the ultimate deprivation is a total severance from the Lord's Spirit, leaving us *alone* from him in spiritual darkness, the ultimate joy may be the blessing of being *with him*, totally filled with that Spirit. Then “there shall be no darkness in” us, for if our eye is single to his glory, our “whole bodies shall be filled with light” (D&C 88:67), a light that “groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day” (D&C 50:24). That

cumstances, a family in Eastern Europe listened to the message of Latter-day Saint missionaries. They read the Book of Mormon, took to heart its message of hope, and joined the Church. Some time later, a friend asked the father, "Well, now that you have become a Mormon, what has changed most in your life?" The man could have described his initial sense of loss in giving up coffee and cigarettes. He might have compared how differently he spent his Sundays than he did before. But instead, the father replied thoughtfully, "What has changed most is the increased sense of love we all feel for one another in our family."²⁵

are what he or she most desires. But the Lord's prophets have assured us that eternal marriage awaits the faithful ones who did not choose their singlehood: "On occasions when you ache for that acceptance and affection which belong to family life on earth, please know that our Father in Heaven is aware of your anguish, and that one day he will bless you beyond your capacity to express."²⁷

One of the most provocative, even if speculative, explanations of our desire for closeness to others is illustrated by the work of anthropologist Joseph Campbell and psychologist Carl Jung. Campbell and Jung have each identified a kind of "collective memory" of the human race within each person, which they believe explains why so many people, across all times and cultures, share common moral codes, common religious and mythical imagery, and common personal aspirations.¹⁵

This collective consciousness may originate in our biological make-up, which carries a human memory bank that could explain some of our attraction toward immediate ancestors and descendants, those who most closely share our gene pool. Modern science, which is exploding with new understanding of our genetic coding, seems to support such assumptions. Recent discoveries suggest that the DNA within each of our body cells may predispose us to exhibit certain tendencies transmitted to us by our parents and grandparents. These discoveries confirm how each human being is a

with God. A 1983 survey reported in a prominent Catholic publication revealed that many American Catholics "want to 'hug God' when they arrive in heaven." McDannell and Lang note that this response echoes "the hopes of earlier generations: God will be a personal character willing to be hugged, individuals will retain their personalities, families will reunite, and earthly activities will continue."¹⁶

for us. As John Donne wrote four centuries ago:

All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; . . . God's hand is in every translation, and his hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again. . . . No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.³

Wickedness is Happiness, Sometimes? The Justice of God and the Nature of the Soul

Mormon 2:13 shows that people have some amount of happiness in sin, but that God doesn't allow that to continue. God doesn't "suffer" them to do that always. Indeed, when people sin, it makes God suffer! The word used in the text is suffer. We reconcile this passage with the passage of Alma 41:10 that "wickedness never was happiness" in that the deceptive "joy" we feel when we sin is like the magician pulling the rabbit out of the hat; it's not real, and not substantive, and won't work when you need it the most. It's a mere trick, and won't meet the deep human needs we all have. It's like a diet of pure ice cream, it seems alright at first, but you soon find it only leaves you ill and without energy; your quality of life has greatly diminished overall; you forgot the joy you once had, and consider this the new normal, and are puzzled at the joy others have whom are living Gods commandments. You don't remember that keeping Gods commandments is the source of joy, so you don't believe or understand the people of God when they claim that God has given them their happiness. We aren't talking about the fake people of God, we are talking about the real people of God whom spend 20 hours of serving the poor for everyone hour reading scriptures. Not the hypocrites, but the true followers of Jesus. These true followers of Jesus are whom you see as having the deepest joy; nothing can conquer it though they pass through hell itself for the sake of righteousness, for the sake of the unending blessings it will pour out on the heads of the people of the earth. They are the saviors of men, and will appear as the Lord at the time of the Coming of the Lord. There is no real solution for world peace outside of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ isn't a mere teacher, he is God. He didn't just have good ideas, he had power to raise the dead. He didn't just give His life for us, he was risen from the dead, and lives today. He didn't just forgive the sinner in His day, he will also judge all mankind at the last day. He will determine whether our works have been good or evil, or somewhere in between, and assign us to a place in His kingdom where we can stand the most blessings. The righteous are more able to receive blessings, so they will be blessed more. The wicked cannot live the law of heaven, so they cannot abide in the highest heaven. They may abide in a lower heaven whose law they agree to abide, but they can never enter the highest heaven without surrendering to the laws of the highest heaven. This includes obedience to God even when we don't understand all the reasons why God is asking us to do a certain thing. Behold the power of God, see it in the history of earth as recorded in the bible and book of Mormon, and see it manifest in The

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Read the book of Mormon, and pray to know if it is not true. Live the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and see if your life doesn't improve for the better. Stop using liquors and harmful drugs, stop being sexually promiscuous, stop keeping all your money for yourself, stop avoiding marriage and childbearing, start praying to the Father in the name of the Son Jesus Christ, start worshiping with the Saints of God, start confessing your crimes and misdeeds to those offended, start becoming financially independent, start taking good care of your body, start worshiping God in his temples as erected by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Start turning your heart to your fathers by researching whom your ancestors are and being baptized proxy for them in the temples, so they too may have the blessings of salvation, for truly, baptism is the gate one must enter into Gods kingdom by. Why? Because God said so. Avoid baptism and you'll never enter into the highest heaven, no, not ever! Baptism is the way we say "ok God, this is your kingdom, I'll do whatever you ask. Want me to balance a rubber duckie on my head while I cook breakfast? Ok. This isn't my program, it's yours, and I'm just glad to be here." Of course Gods symbols (baptism, temple ritual, etc.) are meaningful and not a vain thing like the duck on the head, but the point is that even if we don't understand his symbols yet, that doesn't mean we need to run away. Baptism is to represent a person being laid in a tomb, then rising out of that tomb. Why? because the central thing about Christ is that he will raise your body out of its tomb. Dead is a very short stop on the train of life. Without God and Christ whom is the messenger of God, life is a Shakespearean tragedy. There is no hope, for death comes, and ends our lot, be it sad or glad. But with Christ, we hope to rise from the dead, and know that all will rise from the dead. With Christ, we have hope, and can deal with the tragedy, knowing that this life is the temporary part, and that the greater is to come. Oh friends, believe in God! Try to believe! Try to obey! Gods blessings aren't just for those who are good, but for those who try to be good! For those who are obeying him, and those who try to obey him! Like a parent helping a child to walk, God will help you obey his commandments if you try! What, you've stumbled before? Don't give up! It's not over till it's over! Feel my love for you, and hear my witness as your friend that Christ lives, and has the power to save you! Finally, hear my witness that the power of Jesus Christ is found in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and more knowledge of his kingdom is found there than anywhere on earth! Truths long lost have finally returned and are found in this church, praise the Lord! Come, feast on the words of Christ, which are in more abundance in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints than anywhere on earth! Want to know what happened to Gandhi? Celestial kingdom of God (the highest heaven). But he had no baptism! God's got that taken care of via proxy baptisms; the dead live on as spirits, and await the return of their bodies made alive again, and while they wait, they are taught of the fullness of truth, which is that Jesus Christ is the Lord God whom created

the earth, and that his are the ways of life. The spirit candidate (the dead person) may then praise Jesus Christ and accept baptism, for he had no chance to receive it in life! He had no understanding of it either! So God is kind, and works these things out. He doesn't say "oh you didn't hear / didn't understand? Too bad!" No, this is not the Lord of the universe. The Lord of the universe is a just ruler, who takes everything into account when he makes his judgments, and he is a merciful judge! Do you have more questions about the operation of the universe, and the kingdom of God which organizes it? Of course you do! Talk to me, talk to someone whom has been acquainted with these things, be bold in your seeking! You may or may not be seeking God and Christ, but they are seeking you. They are relentless, and you'll hear from them time and again. They aren't going away, and they have sent prophets once again, like Joseph Smith, to whom they appeared in person, and have sent many more scriptures to. The days of Peter and Paul of the New Testament are upon us again, we now again have witnesses whom have seen the face of God, and whom have his power! Did Christ raise the dead? Yes. So do they whom have his authority. Joseph Smith raised someone from the dead. Prophets since Joseph Smith have raised people from the dead. Has anyone ever raised someone from the dead without the authority from the hand of Jesus Christ? No, not ever! Jesus Christ put his hand on the head of Peter. Then Peter appeared to Joseph Smith in about 1830 and put his hand on Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith passed it on to Brigham Young (these men aren't perfect, only Jesus is perfect, but you would be hard pressed to find better men on earth than Joseph Smith and Brigham Young), and the authority has been passed on by hand to the current prophet Thomas S. Monson. By this direct transferal of power, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints claims the direct authority of God. The prophet Monson receives revelations about what the Church and the world need to do to be saved. Have you heard what he has to say? Oh you really should try it! Aren't you a little curious? Don't you want to at least know, even if you don't believe? Then after you know what he says, don't you want to believe? You must pray to God for this answer. Then will come the most powerful witness you've ever experienced in your life. So fellow wanderer, come, come and see what I have found!

Point-Blank Accountability

Here we argue that our character is our fault, regardless of external forces and situations we're placed into in life, leaving us before God in a state of point-blank accountability. We will also consider how Christ is merciful and takes into account our circumstances, though we do not excuse ourselves.

-2 Ne. 28:23 this verse shows that those who allowed themselves to get ensnared with the chains of Satan will eventually have to stand before God and confess this truth: that ultimately, what they got into was their own fault. Wow!

-You see, we must use the grace of God to help us stop sinning. If we die in deep sin, it means we have not accessed the grace of God. Ecclesiastes says you can turn your life around before you die and it will be well with you, but if you don't, toast!

-Yes there is help in the spirit world for who had not opportunity in this life, and even opportunities for people who lived in sin to get some blessings in the hereafter (but not full exaltation blessings), (and we can't judge well about who meets what qualifications), but we recognize this: This life is the time to repent and prepare to meet God (Alma 34:32, 34 etc.).

-Though our works are "filthy rags" compared to the goodness of God, our salvation will yet hinge upon these two things: Us doing all we can (2 Ne. 25:23), and having God help us (2 Ne. 25:23). We need to offer those filthy rags as a sacrifice to God. If we do nothing, it's like trampling the Holy One of Israel under foot (3 Ne. 28:35), which is much worse than a meager offering, however filthy those rags may be.

-"Death does not change our personality or our desires for good or evil. Those who chose to obey God in this life live in a state of happiness, peace, and rest from troubles and care. Those who chose not to obey in this life and did not repent live in a state of unhappiness." (Preach My Gospel 2004, pp. 52).

-"Sin consists in doing wrong when we know and can do better, and it will be punished with a just retribution, in the due time of the Lord." (Brigham Young, DBY, 156; Teachings of BY Manual: <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-9?lang=eng>).

-"Though we may do the best we know how at this time, can there be no improvement made in our lives? There can. If we do wrong ignorantly, when we learn it is wrong, then it is our duty to refrain from that wrong immediately and for ever." (Brigham Young, DBY, 156; Teachings of BY Manual: <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-9?lang=eng>)

-Naturally, God will take into account all things. Marilyn Monroe had a different name as a child. She was abused severely by her mother, including being locked and transported in a suitcase, many terrible things. One day someone with a

camera told her she looks good in pictures. Finally there was a place where she felt worthwhile. She became a sex figure in society. It seems that God will have mercy on this soul. The family proclamation issued by the LDS church in 1995 states that children are “entitled” to parents who love and care for them. So it seems that a child without that privilege he/she was entitled to have as a human being will have a significant amount of mercy in their case before God. This being said, she was an adult making choices and will have some level of accountability, but this early terrific trauma certainly had lifelong results which were serious and not her fault. Christ’s atonement (sacrifice) on behalf of the rest of the human race is called “infinite” in the scriptures. This doesn’t mean anything goes, but it does mean we have cause to praise His name forever!

Literal (Corporal) Resurrection of Christ & All



For another critical aspect of understanding this topic, study the doctrine of premortality as taught by the prophets, which can be found elsewhere in this book. You must understand that we lived before earth, and a key purpose in coming to earth was to get a body, one like our Father in Heaven's body. Even Jesus Christ had to come to earth to get a body, so he could complete his training to become like Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ is the prototype of how to become like Heavenly Father. Heavenly Father is the exalted man. He was a spirit, then he was born on an earth to get his body, now he exists with that body, resurrected from the dead, to never die again, enjoying his perfected body forever. Jesus Christ now has his resurrected body also. After 3 days in the tomb, he was risen. This is a key doctrine of Christianity, and the great secret of the universe: That the human race are destined to become Gods, and that Gods are created out of humans, particularly humans who express interest in becoming like God, and agree to do so in the only way possible, namely keeping the commandments of God, the same terms by which God himself became God. Lucifer is an interesting case study – he fell because he wanted to become a God, but wasn't willing to do it in the natural process of living a life of devotion to God and kindness to his fellow men. Lucifer wanted to dethrone Heavenly Father and take his place. As we see, Lucifer not only lost his opportunity to become a God from his rebellion, but also lost his opportunity to even get a body. Prophets have revealed that the great punishment to Lucifer is the fact that he doesn't have nor ever will have a body. Prophets have also taught that spirits with bodies have more power than spirits without bodies. This means we have more power than Lucifer. Jesus Christ was resurrected, and so will we be. Even

the wicked on this earth will be resurrected, but their resurrection will not be as glorious as the resurrection of those who are valiant in this life. In the premortal world, those who chose to follow Heavenly Father's plan, including the centerpiece of that plan being redemption through faith in Jesus Christ, were given the opportunity to come to earth and obtain bodies. The gift of bodies is a permanent gift. We've already earned it, and nothing we do in this life could revoke that. Getting bodies is eternally wonderful, but we must follow God if we hope to become like our Father in Heaven. As his children, it is our truest destiny to become like him, and join in the 'family business' of having an endless posterity, and creating worlds on which those posterity may dwell in their journey to joining us and Father in Heaven as the Gods of the universe. Heavenly Father, as an exalted being, has the key privilege of, by the power of his body and the power of his priesthood, having an endless posterity. The doctrine that we can become like our father in heaven is logical and glorious. This is why we shout praises to God! He doesn't just want us to be, as Elder Renlund said, nice house pets who don't get his celestial living room carpet dirty, no, he wants us to become as he is! His key title is "Father". How can we be fathers without bodies? It can't be done. Praise God for the gift and joy of bodies, and oh how we strive to be worthy of a celestial resurrection, where the body will become more glorious than we can comprehend! The attainment of utmost beauty, the absence of disease and exhaustion, these unimaginable gifts are only the beginning! Other interesting reading on this topic are my essay "Objective Beauty" and my essay "Prophets Teach About Beauty", which can be found in my book on family.

-One must understand what is an angel, what is a human, what is a God. They are all human, but in different stages of progression.

stage 1 of human: angel without body (not yet come to earth to get a body)

stage 2 of human: mortal being with a body on earth (being tested to see if will advance higher by passing the test of faith)

stage 3 of human: angel without a body (came to earth for a body and died, and now awaits the resurrection)

stage 4 of human: angel with a body (the body was dead but is now resurrected to forever remain alive, for "in Christ are all made alive")

stage 5 of human: God (the resurrected (re-embodied) angel has reached perfection)

Note: the term "angel" is not really an essential term in this context; the angel is not a different breed from the human or the God; they are all the same breed, it's us. The main thing to pay attention to is that our stages of progression are defined by whether or not our spirits are clothed in bodies. Angel comes from Hebrew *malak* and Greek *angelos*, both merely meaning "messenger." In that sense of the word, a human mortal on God's errand can be termed an angel as well.

Note: Nephilim or giants or “The Watchers” are not strange supernatural creatures, but all fit into the above stages of regular human existence. For a discussion further detailing this point, see document “The Watchers Nephilim Supernatural Theory Exposed as False Doctrine –by Nate Richardson, 5-1917” at this link: <https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/2017/05/19/the-watchers-nephilim-supernatural-theory-exposed-as-false-doctrine-by-nate-richardson-5-1917/>

Note: these human stages in no way justify the false doctrine of reincarnation. The essence of a human remains forever, as well does their memory. Mortal humans don’t remember the life prior to earth because of a veil drawn over the mind by God. This veil will be removed in the resurrection of the dead, and all will remember all 3 parts of the play: pre-mortality, mortality, and post-mortality. (mortality meaning life on this earth as we now live from birth to death. The human soul has existed from the beginning, and will continue to exist indefinitely. For further detailed explanation of this point, see document “Humankind living before earth (have no beginning have no end), Literal Resurrection, Eternal Family: An 18 Point Response to a non-LDS Christian: by Nate Richardson aprox. April 2017” at this link:

<https://richardsonstudies.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/humankind-living-before-earth-have-no-beginning-have-no-end-literal-resurrection-eternal-family-an-18-point-response-to-a-non-lds-christian-by-nate-richardson-aprox-april-2017/>
-Alma 40:22-26: ” 22 Yea, this bringeth about the restoration of those things of which has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets.

23 The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost; but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame.

24 And now, my son, this is the restoration of which has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets—

25 And then shall the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of God.

26 But behold, an awful death cometh upon the wicked; for they die as to things pertaining to things of righteousness; for they are unclean, and no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of God; but they are cast out, and consigned to partake of the fruits of their labors or their works, which have been evil; and they drink the dregs of a bitter cup.”

-D&C 129: 4-5, 7-8: “4 When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you.

5 If he be an angel he will do so, and you will feel his hand.

7 Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven for a just man to deceive; but he will still deliver his message.

8 If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him.

– 1 Cor. 15:50 says no flesh can inherit the kingdom of God, and this is true. Resurrected bodies don't have blood, rather spirit flows through their veins of flesh. The flesh is enhanced from its current earthy state to a celestial state. It is still tangible and embodies the spirit like our mortal bodies now, but it is inexhaustible. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve had no blood in their veins, they had spirit in the veins. Blood entered their bodies when the fall occurred. The fall is when they became mortal. The reason the Old Testament law forbade the eating of blood was because the blood is the life of a thing (Lev. 7:10-14). Hear Brigham Young on this: "The blood he spilled upon Mount Calvary he did not receive again into his veins. That was poured out, and when he was resurrected, another element took the place of the blood. It will be so with every person who receives a resurrection; the blood will not be resurrected with the body, being designed only to sustain the life of the present organization. When that is dissolved, and we again obtain our bodies by the power of the resurrection, that which we now call the life of the body, and which is formed from the food we eat and the water we drink will be supplanted by another element; for flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God [see 1 Corinthians 15:50] (Discourses of Brigham Young, 374)."

(<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-37?lang=eng> ; from Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young: Ch 37, Understanding Death and Resurrection)

– "We came to this earth that we might have a body and present it pure before God in the celestial kingdom. The great principle of happiness consists in having a body. The devil has no body, and herein is his punishment. He is pleased when he can obtain the tabernacle of man, and when cast out by the Savior he asked to go into the herd of swine, showing that he would prefer a swine's body to having none. All beings who have bodies have power over those who have not." (Joseph Smith, Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, Ch17 https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-17?lang=eng#12-36481_000_021 ; Quoted by William Clayton, reporting an undated discourse given by Joseph Smith in Nauvoo, Illinois; in L. John Nuttall, "Extracts from William Clayton's Private Book," pp. 7–8, Journals of L. John Nuttall, 1857–1904, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; copy in Church Archives.)

-2 Nephi 9:5-22: "5 Yea, I know that ye know that in the body he shall show himself unto those at Jerusalem, from whence we came; for it is expedient that it should be among them; for it behooveth the great Creator that he suffereth himself to become subject unto man in the flesh, and die for all men, that all men might become subject unto him.

6 For as death hath passed upon all men, to fulfil the merciful plan of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of resurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall; and the fall came by reason of

transgression; and because man became fallen they were cut off from the presence of the Lord.

7 Wherefore, it must needs be an infinite atonement—save it should be an infinite atonement this corruption could not put on incorruption. Wherefore, the first judgment which came upon man must needs have remained to an endless duration. And if so, this flesh must have laid down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more.

8 O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more.

9 And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself; yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents, who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder and all manner of secret works of darkness.

10 O how great the goodness of our God, who prepareth a way for our escape from the grasp of this awful monster; yea, that monster, death and hell, which I call the death of the body, and also the death of the spirit.

11 And because of the way of deliverance of our God, the Holy One of Israel, this death, of which I have spoken, which is the temporal, shall deliver up its dead; which death is the grave.

12 And this death of which I have spoken, which is the spiritual death, shall deliver up its dead; which spiritual death is hell; wherefore, death and hell must deliver up their dead, and hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and the spirits of men will be restored one to the other; and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel.

13 O how great the plan of our God! For on the other hand, the paradise of God must deliver up the spirits of the righteous, and the grave deliver up the body of the righteous; and the spirit and the body is restored to itself again, and all men become incorruptible, and immortal, and they are living souls, having a perfect knowledge like unto us in the flesh, save it be that our knowledge shall be perfect.

14 Wherefore, we shall have a perfect knowledge of all our guilt, and our uncleanness, and our nakedness; and the righteous shall have a perfect knowledge of their enjoyment, and their righteousness, being clothed with purity, yea, even with the robe of righteousness.

15 And it shall come to pass that when all men shall have passed from this first death unto life, insomuch as they have become immortal, they must appear before the judgment-seat of the Holy One of Israel; and then cometh the judgment, and then must they be judged according to the holy judgment of God.

16 And assuredly, as the Lord liveth, for the Lord God hath spoken it, and it is his eternal word, which cannot pass away, that they who are righteous shall be righteous still, and they who are filthy shall be filthy still; wherefore, they who are filthy are the devil and his angels; and they shall go away into everlasting fire, prepared for them; and their torment is as a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever and has no end.

17 O the greatness and the justice of our God! For he executeth all his words, and they have gone forth out of his mouth, and his law must be fulfilled.

18 But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever.

19 O the greatness of the mercy of our God, the Holy One of Israel! For he delivereth his saints from that awful monster the devil, and death, and hell, and that lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment.

20 O how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it.

21 And he cometh into the world that he may save all men if they will hearken unto his voice; for behold, he suffereth the pains of all men, yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women, and children, who belong to the family of Adam.

22 And he suffereth this that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and judgment day.

”

-1 Cor. 15:16-24: “16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.”

-1 Cor. 15:29: “Else what shall they do which are abaptized bfor the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the ddead?”

-Luke 24:46-33: “36 ¶ And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

43 And he took it, and did eat before them.”

-Job 19:26 “And though after my skin worms destroy this abody, yet in my bfflesh shall I csee God”

-Moses 5:10 “And in that day Adam blessed God and was afilled, and began to bprophecy concerning all the families of the earth, saying: Blessed be the name of God, for because of my ctransgression my deyes are opened, and in this life I shall have enjoy, and again in the fflesh I shall see God.”

-What if a body is burned or shredded in the sea? It all comes back together in the resurrection by the power of God recombining those elements. Hear Brigham Young: “After the spirit leaves the body, it remains without a tabernacle in the spirit world until the Lord, by his law that he has ordained, brings to pass the resurrection of the dead [see D&C 93:33–34]. When the angel who holds the keys of the resurrection shall sound his trumpet, then the peculiar fundamental particles that organized our bodies here, if we do honor to them, though they be deposited in the depths of the sea, and though one particle is in the north, another in the south, another in the east, and another in the west, will be brought together again in the twinkling of an eye, and our spirits will take possession of them. We shall then be prepared to dwell with the Father and the Son, and we never can be prepared to dwell with them until then. Spirits, when they leave their bodies, do not dwell with the Father and the Son, but live in the Spirit world, where there are places prepared for them. Those who do honor to their tabernacles, and love and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, must put off this mortality, or they cannot put on immortality. This body must be changed, else it cannot be prepared to dwell in the glory of the Father” (Discourses of Brigham Young, 372, see Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, at <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-37?lang=eng>). Further, hear Brigham Young again: “We are here in circumstances to bury our dead according to the order of the Priesthood. But some of our brethren die upon the ocean; they cannot be buried in a burying ground, but they are sewed up in canvas and cast into the sea, and perhaps in two minutes after they are in the bowels of the shark, yet those persons will come forth in the resurrection, and receive all the glory of which they are worthy, and be clothed upon with all the

beauty of resurrected Saints, as much so as if they had been laid away in a gold or silver coffin, and in a place expressly for burying the dead” (DBY, 373–74) –“...The spirit [of a righteous man or woman] has overcome the body, and the body is made subject in every respect to that divine principle God has planted in the person. The spirit within is pure and holy, and goes back pure and holy to God, dwells in the spirit world pure and holy, and, by and by, will have the privilege of coming and taking the body again. [Jesus Christ,] holding the keys of the resurrection, having previously passed through that ordeal, will be delegated to resurrect our bodies, and our spirits will be there and prepared to enter into [our] bodies. Then, when we are prepared to receive our bodies, they are the first earthly objects that bear divinity personified in the capacity of the man...” (Discourses of Brigham Young, 373; see Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, at <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-37?lang=eng>)

– “No man can enter the celestial kingdom and be crowned with a celestial glory, until he gets his resurrected body” (DBY, 375).

–“The only true riches in existence are for you and me to secure for ourselves a holy resurrection” (DBY, 372).

– “12 And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality; 13 And who had offered sacrifice in the similitude of the great sacrifice of the Son of God, and had suffered tribulation in their Redeemer’s name. 14 All these had departed the mortal life, firm in the hope of a glorious resurrection, through the grace of God the Father and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. 15 I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand. 16 They were assembled awaiting the advent of the Son of God into the spirit world, to declare their redemption from the bands of death.

17 Their sleeping dust was to be restored unto its perfect frame, bone to his bone, and the sinews and the flesh upon them, the spirit and the body to be united never again to be divided, that they might receive a fulness of joy.

18 While this vast multitude waited and conversed, rejoicing in the hour of their deliverance from the chains of death, the Son of God appeared, declaring liberty to the captives who had been faithful; 19 And there he preached to them the everlasting gospel, the doctrine of the resurrection and the redemption of mankind from the fall, and from individual sins on conditions of repentance.” (D&C 138:12-19)

– “33 For man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy; 34 And when separated, man cannot receive a fulness of joy.” (D&C 93:33-34)

– how will we have seed without end (the covenant of Abraham) if we don’t keep our bodies in the Kingdom of God forever? In my religion, having more children in heaven is the essence of heaven and progression. I claim that none of

God's subjects are anything other than the children he has bourn. He keeps having more children, so his kingdom keeps getting bigger. So it will be for us if we follow Christ.

– God organizes intelligence and leads them along, thus they are his children. He sends them to earth, they get a body, die, get their body back in the resurrection, then they do what he does (if they pass their test, this life is the test). God has had one child in the flesh, that is Jesus Christ. “The Only Begotten Son”. The rest of us are his spirit children. That does not diminish his ownership of us though. As you may have deducted, once a child of God becomes a God, they also have spirit children, and send them to earths for their testing. To have a body is to be like God. Getting a body is one of the main reasons we came to earth.

– “I now, therefore, have come down unto thee to declare unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen.

22 Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones;

23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.

24 And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.” (Abraham 3:21-26)

– I will state the obvious, which is written in the most introductory text of my faith: namely that the body will rise from the grave, and be reunited with the spirit! Heaven is a place where people have bodies, live in families, and families can't happen without sex. Worlds without end, you'll never find such a creation. This is the genius of the restored truth of the latter days: that the body is central to the eternal plan of God, and is not merely to be disposed of after mortal death! Death of body is a resting, not a permanence! Are Christians clear about this? No! Are Latter-day Saint Christians clear about this? More clear than staring you in the face, yes! The universe is governed by laws which even God himself cannot break. The only reason a god is a god is because he and she have

conformed to the laws of the universe. One of the laws of the universe is that we need bodies and the uniting thereof with a spouse to have full joy. Does full joy end after this life? No! And of course, there are many gods, though only 1 of them rules over us. Our God is our father. No being whom is not a child of God is ruled by God. All beings are ruled over by their celestial parent, worlds without end, forever and ever. To avoid the risk of saying something too sacred here, we will merely recall the words of Joseph Smith, that this “one eternal round”. Where did Gods begin? It’s one eternal round. Everyone has a parent... it’s a cycle, worlds without end, and without beginning. The mortal does not comprehend the “no beginning”, and alas I say it no better comprehends the “no end.” The average person has no clue about their true nature, for they have no clue about the nature of God. God has always existed, and we as his children have likewise always existed. God will always exist, and so will we. Even the devils of hell must go on and on forever, and have been forever going on. God fathered us in promoting our state, this does not suggest that we lived not before. Thus it is, we compare to understand, with the biological birth. That person did exist before it got a physical body, but the mortal parents heaped upon it a grand promotion: the body! Likewise, individual personal intelligences named you and I existed before God organized it into greater intelligence. The parent does such a vast favor for the child, that it is considered that the parent “created” the child. Indeed, for all intents and purposes of our word “created”, so he did!

– I believe sexual relations between people married by God are an eternal and divine thing, a grand system of humanity; I believe that in heaven, married people have spirit babies with each other and send them to earths (which they have the power and pleasure of creating and governing to ensure justice and mercy are balanced in the end) so they their children can get bodies LIKE THEM and the experience needed to also become Gods. I also believe we get to keep our bodies in heaven, they are wonderful and bring much pleasure and are beautiful and good. Some think Adam and Eve sinned in having sex. No way! Sex is good. The Adam and Eve story? I think Eve is amazing! She helped Adam learn about how it’s worth it to go through pain in order to have joy! I believe we EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH will come out of their graves and be made perfect, impervious to disease and aging. Getting our bodies back is a free gift from our kind God whom made us. That’s a big part of the Jesus story, that he, the Son of God, “broke the bands of death”, and is responsible for giving everyone their body back. Some say you’ll be more free without a body. But meditation shows that we are quite capable of having larger than life experiences WHILE having bodies. So I think bodies are good. Just because we have a body in heaven doesn’t mean we can’t fly and teleport and move mountains; we just haven’t learned how to do that stuff yet, it will come. So this little rant can show you a bit more about why I think marriage and children is so important... because it’s the order of the universe...

Pre-Mortality, Corporal Resurrection, & Eternal Family - A letter to a friend

(non-LDS Christians think that we did not live before this earth, and that the resurrection isn't literal, and that the family is not eternal. They think there can't be any truth except what is written in the bible, not allowing more modern universal modern written word from God. This letter responds to those things from the LDS point of view, LDS meaning The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

everyone will live forever; we all lived in the beginning, no one will ever cease to exist. 1 Cor. 15 says as in Adam all die so in Christ all live. ; from Adam all die, now Jesus overcame death for everyone; for followers of Christ, massive blessings come, a more "abundant" life (not \$, but glory in the Kingdom etc.); also refer to 1 Cor. 15 about telestial and celestial bodies etc., it says "so also is the resurrection of the dead"; this means depending on how valiant a person is, they will accordingly get resurrected with that level of body; this doesn't mean a cripple in this life is not righteous! It means in the next world, the righteous will have greater blessings in this regard.

1.01 I know it says death to the wicked in your bible. Some places it even says eternal death. My bible says that is figurative. My bible says one of the gifts in the category of "God sends rain to the just and the unjust" is that we all get bodies (except Lucifer and some of his followers as you'll read later in this article).

1.1 I'll refer to "my bible" a few times here, you already have the classic Christian bible, so I really have nothing to say to you if I just base my beliefs on that; If I merely had your bible as the text for my religion, we would be the same religion. However bible believers have had a hard time sorting that out, and have split into many schools of thought as evidenced by hearing one thing in one congregation, and another in another. (I've seen how a preacher in one congregation can interpret something differently from the same bible) If I have anything unique to say to you, it will come from my bible. When I say, "my bible", it means the collection of your bible, and "the book of Mormon", and "the Doctrine and Covenants" (D&C), and "The Pearl of Great Price"; these are the 4 books of my bible; your bible has 66 books in it, my bible has 69. Truly, if we are trying to teach each other out of the same book, we will merely go back and forth bickering about feelings and interpretations. Hence though you may not find it very valuable, most of my message in this letter comes from "my bible", a different book, one you may not be as familiar with. Perhaps you'll consider it a fairy tale, yet I still invite you to continue reading for interest sake. A better knowledge of LDS stuff won't hurt you (PS you don't know it already, you can always learn more, I know that because I've been studying the stuff

(from “my” bible)for a decade and can still learn more; I don’t have it memorized, and when someone puts things together in a certain order it can help it to make sense; however I’m sorry this letter is not very organized and falls short of what it could be; it does not do “my” bible justice; Perhaps you’ve read it, perhaps even more than once, but any bible student knows there is more to be had)

2. “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

3. “And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael;” Rev. 12:6; I believe mankind (me, you, everyone as individuals) also existed before coming to earth. my bible says this: ” 29 Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. 30 All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also; otherwise there is no existence.” (D&C 93:29-30) Another interesting thing on these lines is the idea that no one will disappear. A person’s being cannot vanish. For sinners, they won’t have as high a quality of life in the next world, but exist they shall. Christ said he came to give life and that more abundantly. A parent doesn’t kill its disobedient child, it just doesn’t get to pour as many blessings on it. That is the perspective that sits well with me. Again if this is unclear in the bible, that’s ok, I know it seems heresy to you, but I believe in more than “the bible”. You might consider that God has slain some of his children already, but he slew their bodies, not their spirits.

5.5 this is from my bible about having a body forever: “1 There are two kinds of beings in heaven, namely: Angels, who are resurrected personages, having bodies of flesh and bones—

2 For instance, Jesus said: Handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

3 Secondly: the spirits of just men made perfect, they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory.” D&C 129:1-3)

5.6 here my bible speaks of both God the Father and Jesus Christ having physical literal bodies, but not the Holy Ghost: 22 The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

5.7 this from my bible also speaks of getting a body forever ” 12 And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality; 13 And who had offered sacrifice in the similitude of the great sacrifice of the Son of God, and had suffered tribulation in their Redeemer’s name.

14 All these had departed the mortal life, firm in the hope of a glorious resurrection, through the grace of God the Father and his Only Begotten Son,

Jesus Christ.

15 I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand.

16 They were assembled awaiting the advent of the Son of God into the spirit world, to declare their redemption from the bands of death.

17 Their sleeping dust was to be restored unto its perfect frame, bone to his bone, and the sinews and the flesh upon them, the spirit and the body to be united never again to be divided, that they might receive a fulness of joy.

18 While this vast multitude waited and conversed, rejoicing in the hour of their deliverance from the chains of death, the Son of God appeared, declaring liberty to the captives who had been faithful;

19 And there he preached to them the everlasting gospel, the doctrine of the resurrection and the redemption of mankind from the fall, and from individual sins on conditions of repentance.” (D&C 138:12-19)

Leaders of my church have summarized it this way: “IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life.”

7. Part of the bible I read from (includes the D&C, words from modern prophets (Joseph Smith etc.)) says this:

“For man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy;

34 And when separated, man cannot receive a fulness of joy.” (this is why a literal physical resurrection is important, getting our bodies back from out of their graves; Jesus has his body back, we want to be like him, he is the ideal of happiness)

Also note “element is eternal”; I’m not talking about radioactive decay, I’m talking about the core stuff, perhaps carbon or the atom etc. It goes back to the topic of God creating things from existing materials, etc.

8. I believe in a literal resurrection, everyone gets their bodies back (except Lucifer and other people whom were so wicked in the beginning that they never merited getting a body on earth in the first place). Book of rev. says before earth life, 2/3 of the spirits followed God, and 1/3 of them rebelled and were cast down with Lucifer (they are the spirits that go around tempting us, they will never be blessed with a body)

9. how will we have seed without end (the covenant of Abraham) if we don’t keep our bodies in the Kingdom of God forever? In my religion, having more children in heaven is the essence of heaven and progression. I claim that none of God’s subjects are anything other than the children he has bourn. He keeps having more children, so his kingdom keeps getting bigger. So it will be for us if we follow Christ.

10. in case you don’t like the idea of having a marriage in heaven with your wife

(husband for women), consider that neither is the man without the woman in the Lord. Perhaps you think of the passage about not marrying or given in marriage, but that passage refers to how we get a spouse now, and those who put it off forever, will never have that joy.

11. we believe in fact that without a wife a man cannot progress in heaven. We believe God has a wife, and thus can have children. We believe we are the children of God destined to become like him if we follow and receive and use the power of Jesus Christ.

12. In summary, I believe that we all lived from the beginning, that God was wiser than us, so he helped us come to earth etc. so we can progress to become like him. Jesus Christ is the central figure in God's plan for our salvation. After this earth we will live forever with bodies as families in the presence of God. We will "grow up" and "become like our parents".

12.5 So yes there is a "Mother in Heaven" as well as a Father in Heaven. That helps us realize the divinity of women! Women are divine! God would not be God without his wife. Not even God can create a person without a wife. That's contrary to the law of heaven. There are several things God cannot do: for example, he cannot tell a lie, he cannot commit adultery, he cannot destroy himself, he cannot take away our power to choose for ourselves; there are laws in the universe, God abides by those laws, that is what makes him God.

12.6 was Jesus married? He must have been. Does his bride the church mean he can't have a wife? No, He can't be a perfect God without a wife. He can't have children without a physical wife, and without having children, his kingdom wouldn't exist or grow. Christ is also the father of our salvation, that is why we worship him and call him our king. I also believe Jesus Christ created/molded our physical bodies; however he did not organize our spirits, it was The Father who did that. Furthermore, Jesus Christ was the firstborn in the spirit. Gods first spirit child was Jesus Christ. God later fathered the body of Jesus Christ also.

12.6 founding fathers of Christianity also believed that we can become Gods. Like God in every way. That is the purpose and power of Jesus: to pull us up, to bridge the gap, to work the divine in us. That is why we love him because he first loved us.

13. Does our becoming God's make God less important? No! It gives him more glory. Our kingdom is always beneath his kingdom. It's like how a grandfather doesn't get upset when he gets grandchildren, or when he sees his children succeed. All parents want their children to succeed. A successful child can even go to say how great the parent was. God is so powerful, that he can make me a God. I won't rule over God, I'll rule under him. Lucifer fell because he wanted to force his way into Godhood rather than becoming a God in the appropriate way; Lucifer also wanted to take Gods place, and that is heresy and evil. No one will ever take Gods place.

14. thus the doctrine that mankind was also in the beginning with God is very important in understanding the plan of God.

14.5 one more doctrine in case you were wondering, God organizes intelligence and leads them along, thus they are his children. He sends them to earth, they get a body, die, get their body back in the resurrection, then they do what he does (if they pass their test, this life is the test). God has had one child in the flesh, that is Jesus Christ. "The Only Begotten Son". The rest of us are his spirit children. That does not diminish his ownership of us though. As you may have deduced, once a child of God becomes a God, they also have spirit children, and send them to earths for their testing. To have a body is to be like God. Getting a body is one of the main reasons we came to earth.

15. pose any question to me and I'll answer it – I haven't explained everything here. When you ask a question, those of the nature of "but the bible doesn't say that" are not as interesting to me. I never intended this to be a mere bible message. If that is heresy to you, I don't mean to offend, and I respect your views, and applaud the good you do in the world. The type of questions I'm interested in are those which clarify the message of this letter rather than look for a biblical source for the letter. On some level all of this is in the bible, and we could go there, and I will if you like to some extent, but truly, that's not the point. If that is heresy to you, that's ok, as we've said before we can have different views and still be friends. Even if you think me hell bound for rejecting "perfect bible Christianity", you can still be my friend. PS I don't think you guys are hell bound, and am not offended if you think I am. I'll take it further; You're quite familiar with LDS stuff (much of this letter was probably a repeat for you), so you understand the whole separate levels of heaven thing which the LDS teach; I don't even say you're not going to the highest level of heaven; It's not my place to judge; when people do their best they get the best reward; yes it's true that LDS teach that the highest heaven is for those who have LDS temple ceremonies performed for them, yet there is a stipulation for those who weren't involved; the stipulation is them getting that temple stuff after they are dead, awaiting the resurrection; however we encourage persons to read "my bible" and wrestle with this stuff and not get in a "I'll change when I'm dead" setting, that never does much; the point of this final rant is to say that in no way do I say you're not going to the highest heaven; there is so much confusion these days, I'm an imperfect messenger, LDS prophets are imperfect messengers, etc. etc., that many people simply aren't going to hear the message God really wants them to hear; the key is that people really truly do their best, and pray very hard to find truth, and are willing to stand alone when called upon by God, willing to be in a minority of 1, etc. A note: though myself etc. are imperfect messengers, I do believe that "my bible" is absolutely true, pure revelation from the mouth of God. I take my bible as seriously as you do your bible. I also have another tool, it's living prophets. When a passage in my bible isn't clear, they can clarify it via God telling them the clarification. Such clarifications apply to the whole world and are binding. Another important point is that not everything a leader in "my church" says is this type of depth binding revelation. Messages from "the

first presidency” and those which are repeated over time are the ones which are considered “revelation” and binding in their authority on the same level as “bible”.

16. some of this is hard to understand and may be unclear, but the universe isn't 1st grade, it's so fascinating that it can keep a genius on his toes, and thrill the best and brightest. It can at its core also be very simple and clear. I've not focused on that so much, so if you have questions of that nature, refer to the website sponsored by “my church” ; the best site I can think of is this <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topics-and-background/> it has an a-z index of church stuff even the hard questions. While not sponsored by the church, fairmormon.org is also a good one.

17. you may not be into any of this, that's ok. It's been fun for me to put this together. I also feel bad if I don't explain myself when I say something like I did on the FB message of “things that begin have an end”. God bless you this passage from the book of Abraham (from POGP in my bible) it's very important to the above logic:

“I now, therefore, have come down unto thee to declare unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen. 22 Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones; 23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born. 24 And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; 25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; 26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever. 27 And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first. 28 And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate; and, at that day, many followed after him.” (Abraham 3:21-28) The reader refused to read my letter because I referred to things not in the Bible, and I responded thus:

That's fine that you are not interested I will avoid pestering you with these things in the future. My message is something you are inherently opposed to,

that your bible is not the only standard of truth. Since there is this foundational disagreement we can politely tip our hats and focus our conversation on different things. My attempts to show you from the bible that the bible is not the only standard of truth have been in vain. You say the bible can be like art that several people see differently. Well I can use the bible to say that there are more venues of truth than that book. So really your rejection of my extra biblical literature is a rejection of the bible itself... This outright rejection of my view evidenced by your refusing to read my letter to you is slightly disappointing. I put a lot of thought into that and it's addressed specifically to you. If a pagan wrote me a letter I would read it out of respect for my pagan friend (and yes, it's OK to be friends with pagans). After reading the letter I would tell him thank you for your time though I do not share those views. At that point I would either leave it alone or try to sport with my friend in showing him fallacies of his logic and try to persuade him to my point of view. Either way I would do my best to respect my friend. At the same time I recognize you are busy and didn't necessarily ask for the letter, and perhaps reading such a letter is against your religion (hopefully this level of close mindedness is not a tenant), so I understand your hesitancy to read my letter. If I've offended you I apologize and will seek more neutral topics in the future as I value your friendship regardless of religion. I also note that despite differences our religions do have much in common. May God truly bless you as he has in the past.

The Solution to Pharaoh's Dilemma: Overcoming Death

The authoritative solution to death is found from the prophets and temples...

Ideas based on a lecture by Hugh Nibley

Pharaoh was worried very much. He was not focused on death but on resurrection, on eternal life, not an eternal tomb. He was preoccupied about overcoming death he spent his days in the genealogical archives looking through files trying to see where he had Authority he wanted to imitate the ways of the Ancients like Noah and perform the rites and ordinances of eternal life he was heartbroken to find out that he could not find any link to this Authority in his genealogy and so he imitated Noah and created temples and these temples mimicked the order of the ancients.

The temples were the CenterPoint hierocentric center of the universe there a scale model of the universe; they are where we began to understand life after death you see this is the universal preoccupation of the human race, death. no one can get around it happens to everyone and so in the temples they prepared for the next life the prepared to be risen from the dead and they took upon themselves vestitures which would enable them so to do; of course these rituals were revealed by Angelic beings which came and showed them to Noah, Adam,

et-cetera. And of course the temples are the perfect universities, the first observatories, etc.

The 7 Deadly Heresies by Elder Bruce R McConkie – Lecture Highlights

-God knows all things, he is not continuing to learn. If he did not know all things, he could not save any of his creations. This is a quotation from Joseph Smith.

-Evolution in the way many see it (Darwinism) is entirely false. There was no death before the Fall of Adam. There were not things dying and evolving before Adam. The fall brought death into the world. See 2 Nephi 2:22 where it expressly says this.

-There is no doctrine of post-death second chances for Celestial Kingdom residence. “Those who reject the gospel in this life and then receive it in the spirit world go not to the celestial, but to the terrestrial kingdom.”

Our work for the dead is for who did not have the chance to hear the gospel in this life. It’s not our place to judge who that may or may not be.

-There is no advancing from one kingdom of glory to the next in the life to come. Where you are assigned is where you stay. “Of those in the telestial world it is written: “And they shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end” (D&C 76:112).”

-Temple marriage does not ensure that we will teach the Celestial Kingdom.

-We don’t have to be perfect in this life to merit living with God in the hereafter, but recall these principals, “(1) that this life is the appointed time for men to prepare to meet God—this life is the day of our probation; and (2) that the same spirit which possesses our bodies at the time we go out of this mortal life shall have power to possess our bodies in that eternal world.”

We need to be going towards God, and that not superficially.

-To see the full text of this discourse [click here](#).

Creation Fall Atonement Narrative

Elder McConkie taught that there are 3 pillars of eternity, as follows:

1. creation of the world,
2. the fall of Adam & Eve, and
3. the atonement of Jesus Christ.

Here are various scenes where we find these 3 pillars to be of use. These are analogies which help us understand these pillars. I view the original pillars to be factual accounts, not purely symbolic, though here we will consider various symbols.

Let me know if more you think of!

A. Life

1. Pre-mortality,
2. earth life,
3. the life to come

B. Bodies

1. living as spirits,
2. living with bodies on earth,
3. living with resurrected bodies in the kingdom of God

C. The Batman Film Series (Not that I suggest those movies, which I don't, though the music is good.)

1. "Batman Begins" with fear,
2. episode 2, Batman falls in chaos,
3. episode 3, Batman rises by pain.



(images spliced from the movie covers)

D. The literary theme

1. Hero learns of identity & mission
2. Hero embarks on the mission and finds much difficulty
3. Hero overcomes through great sacrifice, successfully completing his mission

E. Star Wars

1. Luke learns of the force
2. Luke fights against the dark side of the force
3. Luke becomes a Jedi master and restores balance to the force

F. Candide by Voltaire

1. Candide begins with pure optimism
2. Candide experiences setbacks of every kind
3. Candide resorts to his garden, where his feelings are tempered with wisdom as he seeks to live a quiet life

G. College

1. The student hears of many possibilities & of his potential
2. The student fails in obtaining all of his ambitions as he seeks to balance work school family life and his various passions. He is saddened by his inability to learn all things and help all people at the present time.
3. The student relinquishes various academic aspirations and performs in a specific field, trusting that someday as time goes on, his heart will find knowledge, and he will somehow make a significant contribution to human kind in the various ways his heart feels to serve. He finds hope in religion which promises that he eventually shall obtain all knowledge and all power to serve others.

H. The Family Man

1. The young man is ambitious about family life, and obtains a wife and children
2. The man experiences all manner of difficulties and is pushed further than he ever thought possible. He makes many mistakes and searches his soul to find strength to rise to his tasks
3. The man becomes temperate and charitable, and is a legend among his people, playing a large role in the redemption of his posterity. He is not perfect, but he knows that as he continues improving he will become a God in eternity, and gain the title which is the highest: Heavenly Father.

(Note: for the woman, same narrative, and she obtains the title Heavenly Mother, whom is Father's secret weapon, or in other words, she is the nucleus of the universe around which all else goes, she is the definition of purity and good, and Father's job is to help people become like Mother. On a smaller scale, as President Russel M Nelson said, he chose to be a medical doctor because he could not choose to be a mother. He and God both have complete reverence for woman. The Hebrew word for God is actually a plural, Elohim, the 'im' meaning plural, which suggests that God is the team of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother.)

Can't Advance Kingdoms Once Assigned – Quotes

It has been asked if it is possible for one who inherits the telestial glory to advance in time to the celestial glory?

The answer to this question is, No! The scriptures are clear on this point.

Speaking of those who go to the telestial kingdom, the revelation says: "And they shall be servants of the Most high; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end (D&C 766:112).

Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., Doc. Of Sal., Vol 2, p. 31

There are some people who have supposed that if we are quickened telestial bodies that eventually, throughout the ages of eternity, we will continue to progress until we will find our place in the celestial kingdom, but the scriptures and revelations of God have said that those who are quickened telestial bodies cannot come where God and Christ dwell, worlds without end.

George Albert Smith, CR, Oct. 1945, p. 172

After a person has been assigned to his place in the kingdom, either in the telestial, the terrestrial, or the celestial, or to his exaltation, he will never advance from his assigned glory to another glory. That is eternal! That is why we must make our decisions early in life and why it is imperative that such decisions be right.

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p. 50

