

Plan of Salvation and the Atonement of Jesus Christ						
Premortal Life	Creation, Garden, Fall	Earth Life, Gospel	◆	Spirit World	◆	Celestial Terrestrial
God's purpose/plan, War in heaven	moral agency, law, conscience, 1 st death	carnal, sensual, devilish, temptation, adversity	Physical death	Paradise, spirit prison	Resurrection Judgment	Telestial Perdition

#20: The Kingdoms of Glory

Monte F. Shelley, 14 June 2009

Quotes

- This life is a test. It is only a test. If it'd been an actual life, you would've received instructions on where to go and what to do.
- Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. (Mark Twain)

Timeline of Key Events Related to Plan of Salvation	
1832	Feb 16: D&C 76. Vision of plan and kingdoms of glory After vision which lasted over an hour, "Joseph sat firmly and calmly ... but Sidney sat limp and pale, apparently as limber as a rag, observing which, Joseph remarked, smilingly, 'Sidney is not used to it as I am'" (McConkie 513) Dec 27: D&C 88. Each kingdom has a law, build a temple
1836	Jan 21: D&C 137. In the temple, Joseph saw brother Alvin in the celestial kingdom with Adam and Abraham. Washings and anointing in Kirtland temple. Oliver wrote that "the heavens were opened to many, and great and marvelous things were shown." Joseph was the only one present to describe in detail some of what he experienced. Alvin died not long after Moroni appeared to Joseph. Joseph said: "he was the oldest and the noblest of my father's family. He was one of the noblest of the sons of men." At Alvin's funeral his mother's minister "intimated very strongly that he had gone to hell, for Alvin was not a Church member." Joseph's father didn't like it. (Harper 504-5) D&C 137: Joseph marveled to see Alvin in CK. All who would have received gospel will be in CK. Mar 27: D&C 109. Kirtland temple dedication, visions Apr 3: D&C 110. Lord, Moses, Elias, and Elijah appear
1840	Aug 15: Brunson funeral. Joseph teaches baptism for dead. Saints began baptizing for the dead in Mississippi river Oct: Joseph gives conference talk on baptism for dead. During conference, 8-10 elders were baptizing in river
1841	Jan 19: D&C 124. Baptisms for dead in temple
1842	Sept 1: D&C 127. Keep record of baptisms for dead Sept 6: D&C 128. Baptism for dead: keys, recorder, font; "welding link ... between the fathers and the children"
1843	Feb 1: Joseph publishes "A Vision" (D&C 76 as poem) Joseph's commentary. Refers to "council in Kolob" May 16: D&C 131. Celestial marriage gate to exaltation Jul 12: D&C 132. Celestial marriage, gods, eternal increase
1844	Mar 10: Joseph taught need to seal parents and children Apr 7: Joseph gave the King Follett funeral discourse. "God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man;" "You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you;" unpardonable sin, creation involved council of Gods Jun 27. Joseph and Hyrum killed in Carthage

1894	Apr 5: Wilford Woodruff: genealogy, sealing to ancestors Saints often sealed selves to Joseph, Brigham or others. "When I went before the Lord to know who I should be adopted [sealed] to ..., the Spirit ... said ... 'Have you not a father ...?'"
1918	Oct 3: D&C 138. Gospel preached in spirit world

1. Historical context of section 76

- Calvinists: saved & damned according to God's pleasure & will
- Universalists: God will save everyone
- Methodists: Christ would respect individual's will
- Hinduism & Buddhism: reincarnation until escape cycle
- Islam: Unbelievers and pagans shall burn in hell forever.

Joseph commanded not to write all that he saw. (76:115)

Joseph: "I could explain a hundred fold more than I ever have of the glories of the kingdoms manifested to me in the vision, were I permitted, and were the people prepared to receive them. The Lord deals with this people as a tender parent with a child, communicating light and intelligence and the knowledge of his ways as they can bear it" (HC 5:402; May 1843)

Wilford Woodruff: "I had been taught that there was one heaven and one hell; and everybody that was not sprinkled or baptized, infants and all, would have to go to hell. It made no difference whether the individual had committed no wrong. ... On the other hand, everybody that was sprinkled would go to heaven. ... I did not believe one word of it. ... But this vision ... opened my eyes. It showed me the power of God and the righteousness of God in dealing with the human family. Before I saw Joseph I said I did not care how old ... or how young how was ...; the man that advanced that revelation was a prophet of God. I knew it for myself." ("Remarks," *Deseret Weekly News*, Sept. 5, 1891, 322)

Brigham Young: My traditions were such that when the Vision first came to me, it was so directly contrary and opposed to my former education, I said, Wait a little; I did not reject it; but I could not understand it. I then could feel what incorrect tradition had done for me. ... I used to think and pray, to read and think, until I knew and fully understood it for myself, by the visions of the Holy Spirit. (Harper 271-2)

Brigham Young: When God revealed to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon that there was a place prepared for all, according to the light they had received and their rejection of evil and practice of good, it was a great trial to many, and some apostatized because God was not going to send to everlasting punishment heathens and infants, but had a place of salvation, in due time, for all, and would bless the honest and virtuous and truthful, whether they ever belonged to any Church or not. (JD 16:42. Karl Ricks Anderson, *Joseph Smith's Kirtland*, 1989, 96.)

Jonah wanted Assyrians to be destroyed not forgiven.

Ammonites repented.

Joseph Holbrook, a missionary sent to New York, said "We ... held a prayer meeting and found there was a wrong spirit with some of the brethren, the presiding elder even forbidding us to believe in the vision of Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon." In June 1837 Joseph instructed the first missionaries to England not to

teach the vision until the Saints were prepared. He told them to “adhere closely to the first principles of the Gospel, and remain silent concerning ... the vision ... until such time as the work was fully established, and it should be clearly made manifest by the Spirit to do otherwise” (HC 2:491-2). {in Pinegar,... 265}

2. JST John 5:29: Resurrection of just and unjust

They that have done good, unto the resurrection of *life* [just]; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of *damnation* [unjust].

Marveled, “while we meditated upon these things, ... the eyes of our understandings ... were opened” (76:19)

DOMcKay: “Meditation is the language of the soul. It is defined as ‘a form of private devotion or spiritual exercise, consisting in deep, continued reflection.’ ... Meditation is one of the most secret, most sacred doors through which we pass into the presence of the Lord.” (Conf. Rpt. Apr. 1967, 85)

3. Perdition and Sons of Perdition

Lucifer [HEB morning star; L light bearing], son of the morning or HEB darkness; Satan [HEB adversary, opponent], Devil [GR slanderer; speak evil of → divide, stir up to anger], Perdition [HEB ruin, destruction, loss; lost]

These ... shall go away into the lake of fire and brimstone, with the devil and his angels—... the only ones on whom the second death shall have any power; ... who shall not be redeemed in the due time of the Lord, after the sufferings of his wrath. (76:36–38)

I, the Lord God, caused that he should be cast out from the Garden of Eden, from my presence, because of his transgression, wherein he became spiritually dead, which is the first death, even that same death which is the last death, which is spiritual, which shall be pronounced upon the wicked when I shall say: Depart, ye cursed. (D&C 29:41)

Joseph Smith: “What must a man do to commit the unpardonable sin? He must receive the Holy Ghost, have the heavens opened unto him, and know God, and then sin against Him. After a man has sinned against the Holy Ghost, there is no repentance for him. He has got to say that the sun does not shine while he sees it; he has got to deny Jesus Christ when the heavens have been opened unto him, and to deny the plan of salvation with his eyes open to the truth of it; and from that time he begins to be an enemy. This is the case with many apostates. ... When a man begins to be an enemy to this work, he hunts me, he seeks to kill me, and never ceases to thirst for my blood. He gets the spirit of the devil—the same spirit that they had who crucified the Lord of Life. ... You cannot save such persons; you cannot bring them to repentance; they make open war, like the devil.” (TPJS, 358/371; King Follett)

“Heavens opened” → occurs about 12 times, → visions, ...

“The sin against the Holy Ghost requires such knowledge that it is manifestly impossible for the rank and file to commit such a sin.” (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, 23).

Boy not know enough. Carol ignored prompting.

4. Atonement and the Gospel (D&C 76:39–44)

For all the rest shall be brought forth by the resurrection of the dead, through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb, who was slain, who was in the bosom of the Father before the worlds were made. ⁴⁰ And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us— ⁴¹ That he came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to bear the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness; ⁴² That through him all might be saved whom

the Father had put into his power and made by him; ⁴³ Who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition. ... ⁴⁴ Wherefore, ... they shall go away into everlasting ... endless ... [or] eternal punishment, to reign with the devil and his angels in eternity, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched, which is their torment—

Toothache caused by worm eating inside of a tooth. Sharp pain → worm turns. No toothache → worm died. (Robinson, 302)

5. Who will be resurrected?

Poetic version: “While all the rest are, through the triumph of Christ, made partakers of grace, by the power of his word.”

Early manuscripts read “Who [or They] shall be brought forth by the resurrection of the dead” (JMcConkie, 525)

Just: Morning (CK) and evening (Terr) of first resurrection

Unjust: Morning (Tel) and evening (Per) of second resurrection

6. All kingdoms have a law given (88:36, 21–24, 32–33)

“He who is not able to abide the law of a ____ kingdom cannot abide a ____ glory.” “They shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received. For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.”

We will go the kingdom that has the law we are willing to obey.

We will go the kingdom where we will be the happiest.

Celestial	Highest degree: celestial marriage Mid?: Endowment Obey law of gospel: baptism, Holy Ghost
Terrestrial	Obey law of land: not kill, rob, steal, defraud, defame
Telestial	Criminal parasites: break law, contracts, promises Gadianton robbers got elected so more easily kill, ...

Joseph: The righteous who have died “shall rise again to dwell in everlasting burnings in immortal glory, not to sorrow, suffer, or die any more, but they shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. What is it? To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a god, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before.” (HC 6:306; TPJS 347/360; King Follett)

Cel K:

“This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.” (Moses 1:39)

Terr K: Just (law keepers)

Many want sex without children here. Why would they want children in their heaven.

Protestant heaven.

Tel K:

Shepherd loves sheep and goats. He separates them at night because goats love to annoy the sheep.

Thieves live only with thieves. Share stories, steal from each other

Laws of Love: Easy to love nice people

Celestial	Love others as Christ loved (Charity); God’s will; love and pray for enemies
Terrestrial	Love neighbor (Golden Rule); our will be done
Telestial	Love friends and hate enemies; my will be done!

My will be done → physical/verbal abuse; compulsory means

All unhappiness comes from our attempts to control people or events over which we have no control.

Ask (persuade, invite, entice); agency; accept. (?despise)

Teach correct principles and let them govern themselves.

7. What would one do to get to the telestial kingdom?

“the glory of the telestial ... surpasses all understanding; (76:89)

“A rather common notion in connection with this verse is that Joseph Smith had taught that if we knew what the telestial kingdom was like, we would commit suicide to get there. What the Prophet said was not in reference to the telestial kingdom, but to life ‘behind the veil,’ which may mean a number of things. The Prophet’s statement (Charles Walker quoting Wilford Woodruff quoting Joseph Smith) is as follows: “Br. Woodruff spoke. ... He referred to a saying of Joseph Smith which he heard him utter (like this) That if the People knew what was behind the veil, they would try by every means to commit suicide that they might get there, but the Lord in his wisdom had implanted the fear of death in every person that they might cling to life and thus accomplish the designs of their creator. (Diary of Charles Lowell Walker, 1:465-66.)” (Robert L. Millet and Kent P. Jackson, eds., *Studies in Scripture, Vol. 1: The Doctrine and Covenants*, footnote 29, chapter 27, p. 307-308)

8. How does the “plan of salvation” help you today?

How does it help you love God, become more Christlike, and love neighbor?

Preexistence	We shouted for joy → hope
War in heaven	Rebel teen; G Inq; Satan’s last words; ETB
Creation, garden, Fall	Marriage, honeymoon, reality
Purpose of life	Moral agency, tempted, adversity, nat. man
Atonement	
Spirit world	None, purgatory, temple work
Resurrection	Death and temple endowment hope
Judgment	
3 heavens	

Preexistence:

HOPE: “The great plan of happiness ... would not be called the eternal plan of salvation/happiness/redemption/mercy... if its primary effect was the damnation of the vast majority of God’s offspring. ... And the assumption that our mother in heaven would idly sit back and allow such a guaranteed flop to eternally strip her of any interaction with her spirit offspring is equally unfathomable. ... Those of us who shouted for joy ... felt that the odds were in our favor. ... If the Father had informed us that ‘there’s good news and bad news’ ... ‘The good news is there is a Plan, but the bad news is *most* of you are not going to make it back ...’ surely we would not have felt reason to rejoice.” (Alonzo Gaskill, *Odds Are You’re Going to Be Exalted*, 17–18)

War in Heaven

Satan and God had: **same goal** (all return) but **diff. methods:** moral agency vs. no moral agency (no moral options or compelled to choose good)

Rebellious LDS Teenage Girl

One day a woman called me.... Their problem was a rebellious teenager and an escalating power struggle between the girl and her parents that was getting out of hand....

When teenagers get into trouble it is generally a case of (a) *too little supervision* and too few consequences for breaking family rules, or, (b) ... *too many rigid rules* and overly strict and intrusive enforcement leading to rebellion....

This family who... appeared to be of the second type... lived... quite near my ... Jewish colleague.... [I sent them to him.]

After only a couple of weeks I got a call from my friend. “Carl, I need some help....”

“What’s the problem? They probably just need to loosen up the parental iron fist a little.”

“Of course. If they don’t, this kid is about to run away from home or attempt suicide.... But, Carl, every time I suggest any movement in the direction of loosening up, they patiently explain... that I just don’t understand their religious obligations as Mormon parents to keep this kid in line.... I don’t know how to deal with this....”

I... said: “... First, tell them that... you have developed a real curiosity about the Mormon religion.... [But] one issue... has you mystified. You keep hearing about some ‘war in heaven’....”

A few days later he called: “It was like magic.... In seconds [the mom] launched into some story about a council in heaven and two plans, and she gets about three minutes into it and she stops... and gives me a funny look and says, ‘All right, Doctor, you’ve made your point.’ From that point on they were like putty in my hands. It was like magic. Carl, what is this war in heaven?”

Of course, there was no magic. This good LDS woman simply had the unnerving experience of explaining Satan’s plan to an ‘investigator’ and ... recognizing it as substantially her own version of responsible Mormon parenting. ... She understood the gospel principle fully; she just had been blinded to its applicability to her everyday challenges as a parent.

(Carlfred B. Broderick, “Surviving (Eternal) Marriage,” *My Parents Married on a Dare*, 87–89; also in *Eternal Companions*, edited by Douglas E. Brinley and Daniel K. Judd, 11.)

Satan’s last words after losing war/vote:

Here you rejected my plan to take away your agency so that all might be saved. You think it is wise to allow people to choose between good and evil without compulsory means. You want the freedom to choose for yourself regardless of those who will not return. However, when you see how others use their agency, you will use or support my plan on earth. You will see the great wickedness and poverty that comes with agency. People will not do what you know to be right. Many of you will gladly give up freedom to be free from fear or poverty. In your families and communities, you will prefer my compulsory means over persuasion and long suffering to achieve good goals such as:

- No empty seats at the family table in heaven.
 - Children and spouses should do what is right.
 - There shall be no poor or sick among us.
 - All people must be protected from accidents and injury.
 - All should treat others well regardless of race, creed, or color.
 - All should use their property or stewardship as you feel is right
- You will use or support laws and regulations to compel people to do good instead of teaching correct principles and letting them govern themselves.

On earth, I will prove to you that God’s plan will not work very well and that my plan would have worked. I will set up my kingdom where all people will contribute to the church and the poor whether they want to or not. Having the gold, I will make the rules. If you do not obey, you will be denied money you need for your family or business. You may also be compelled to obey.

You will learn by sad experience that God’s plan will not work well but mine will. You will choose my plan on earth.

How would Satan have implemented his plan?

When will I use or approve the use of force instead of persuasion for worthy goals?

Taxes to fund state churches? Not one empty seat?

Put money where mouth is → vote for the two plans (force or persuasion) here with our actions, words, thoughts

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson: “The central issue in that premortal council was: Shall the children of God have untrammelled agency to choose the course they should follow, whether good or evil, or shall they be coerced and forced to be obedient? Christ and all who followed Him stood for the former proposition—freedom of choice; Satan stood for the latter—coercion and force. The war that began in heaven over this issue is not yet over. The conflict continues on the battlefield of mortality. And one of Lucifer’s primary strategies has been to restrict our agency through the power of earthly governments. ... “[I] believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life. (D&C 134:2) ... The people who have created their government can give to that government only such powers as they, themselves, have in the first place. Obviously, they cannot give that which they do not possess. By deriving its just powers from the governed, government becomes primarily a mechanism for defense against bodily harm, theft, and involuntary servitude. It cannot claim the power to redistribute money or property nor to force reluctant citizens to perform acts of charity against their will. Government is created by the people. The creature cannot exceed the creator. ... In the Kirtland Temple dedicatory prayer given on 27 March 1836, the Lord directed the Prophet Joseph to say: “May those principles, which were so honorably and nobly defended, namely, the Constitution of our land, by our fathers, be established forever.” (D&C 109:54)” (Ezra Taft Benson, “The Constitution—A Glorious Standard,” *Ensign*, Sep 1987, 6)

Ezra Taft Benson: George Washington warned, “Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!” It is an instrument of force and unless our conscience is clear that we would not hesitate to put a man to death, put him in jail or forcibly deprive him of his property for failing to obey a given law, we should oppose it. ... There is one simple test. Do I as an individual have a right to use force upon my neighbor to accomplish this goal? If I do have such a right, then I may delegate that power to my government to exercise on my behalf. If I do not have that right as an individual, then I cannot delegate it to government, and I cannot ask my government to perform the act for me. To be sure, there are times when this principle of the proper role of government is most annoying and inconvenient. If I could only force the ignorant to provide for themselves, or the selfish to be generous with their wealth! ... “Most of the major ills of the world have been caused by well-meaning people who ignored the principle of individual freedom, except as applied to themselves, and who were obsessed with fanatical zeal to improve the lot of mankind-in-the-mass through some pet formula of their own. ... The harm done by ordinary criminals, murderers, gangsters, and thieves is negligible in comparison with the agony inflicted upon human beings by the professional ‘do-gooders,’ who attempt to set themselves up as gods on earth and who would ruthlessly force their views on all others—with the abiding assurance the end justifies the means.” ... I believe it a violation of the Constitution for government to deprive the individual of either life, liberty, or property except for these purposes:

- a. Punish crime and provide for the administration of justice;
- b. Protect the right and control of private property;
- c. Wage defensive war and provide for the nation’s defense;
- d. Compel each one who enjoys the protection of government to bear his fair share of the burden of performing the above functions.

(“The Proper Role of Government,” abridged form in General Conference, Oct. 1968)

Grand Inquisitor

Man is born a rebel, and can rebels be ever happy? ... Thou hast rejected the only means which could make mankind happy. ...

- a. Make bread from stone. He who controls the food or money makes the rules.
- b. Cast self from pinnacle and be lifted up. People follow miracle workers.
- c. Accept the kingdoms of world. Power/authority allows you to compel obedience.

Never was there anything more unbearable to the human race than personal freedom. ... In our sight ... the weak and the lowly are the more dear to us [than to you]. True, they are vicious and rebellious, but we will force them into obedience, and it is they who will admire us the most. They will regard us as gods, and feel grateful to those who have consented to lead the masses and bear their burden of freedom by ruling over them. ... Having once had proved to them their weakness, they will become timid and obedient, and gather around us like chickens around their hen. ... They will nervously dread our slightest anger, their intellects will weaken, their eyes become as easily accessible to tears as those of children and women; but we will teach them an easy transition from grief and tears to laughter, childish joy and mirthful song. Yes; we will make them work like slaves, but during their recreation hours they shall have an innocent child-like life, full of play and merry laughter. We will even permit them sin, for, weak and helpless, they will feel the more love for us for permitting them to indulge in it. We will tell them that every kind of sin will be remitted to them, so long as it is done with our permission; that we take all these sins upon ourselves, for we so love the world, that we are even willing to sacrifice our souls for its satisfaction. And, appearing before them in the light of their scapegoats and redeemers, we shall be adored the more for it. ... It will rest with us to permit them to live with their wives and concubines, or to forbid them, to have children or remain childless, either way depending on the degree of their obedience to us;

Creation, Garden, Fall

In garden, God gave man free agency (life/body, liberty/choices, property/garden) and moral agency (commandment, consequences)

Honeymoon

Dan Judd: Used PofS in marriage therapy.

Garden = Honeymoon (2 Merkle boys and spouses); Garden is nice but it is not the celestial kingdom!

Telestial = within 1–2 years; kids

Terr =

Cel =

Purpose of Life Earth= Telestial world

“we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;” (Abr. 3:24–25)

Opposition

Enemy = someone who opposes me; prevents me reaching my goal

Satan tempts us to use his methods to accomplish our goals.

Easily provoked, TWO WOLVES; discernment of which

What if bad thoughts? Can't keep bird from flying over but no nest.

Satan → prove God's plan flawed (encourage sin) so he can get our votes for his no-agency plan now (encourage force to create utopia)

Live in fear or vote for me (Gadianton Robber ultimatum)

Create problem that requires force to solve. (Protection racket!)

Spirit World:

Catholic: purgatory

Resurrection

E. Scott: Death and temple endowment hope

Judgment:

This life is a test ... Normal curve → most fail!

Life is like being on a high wire without a net

If you were to die now, to which kingdom would you go?
70% telestial.

When people did not open the door, a missionary said through the mail slot "We're the Mormons!" to make them accountable. His companion said, "If that is all it takes ... the Church could just run one international commercial for about a week and send everyone to hell." (*Odds 74*)

Parable: Whose presence might keep me out of CK?

Own Judges

Law willing to obey

Criterion vs Norm Ref; Grade inflation

How many can get (1) Eagle Scout, (2) Driver's license, (3)

Temple, (4) CK

Love tests:

D&C 109: ___ prayed for mobs.

Spouse or child will be greatest challenge ... and teacher.

I can make it easy or hard for spouse to love me.

All will have people to test our level of love.

How we treat others. (Raise the bar)

Training dolphins to jump. Lower bar, reward progress.

Kids learning to walk and talk.

Three heavens

SONG: "We were out on a date. ... She's gone to heaven so I've got to be good, so I can see my baby when I leave this world."

Telestial

Terrestrial

Parents of teens understand why some animals eat their young.

Birth control (protection, pills, vasectomy, tubes tied, abortion)

If knew then, vasectomy.

Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn: no marriage, live together

Hysterectomy → sports model

All knowledge would not be a blessing. Fun of sports, gambling, etc. based on not knowing outcome.

Celestial

"Just men made perfect through Jesus ... who wrought out this perfect atonement." (76:69)

Exaltation

Some spouses are only together until kids gone.

If I call you forth, will you come?

g. How does Satan use these doctrines against us?

Use PofS as a club! Guilt trips. You know where liars go. FEAR God.

Raise the bar! "Valiant in testimony" means perfect (without sin)

JS to people coming to Nauvoo: Don't expect me to be perfect or I will expect the same of you.

Eliminate faults → find faults. Baseball player watching videos of non-hits to find faults. Watch videos of hitting.

HJGrant: (Satan) You are unworthy to be an apostle. You should resign. HG: continue your labor for good. SIX months to tell diff.

h. Conclusion

If your primary goal is to make it to the celestial kingdom, you probably won't make it! → keep eye on ball not on fence.

Brigham Young: In February 1847 Joseph Smith appeared to Brigham Young in a dream and said: "Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to keep the spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. Be careful and not turn away the small voice; it will teach you what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the Holy Ghost comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it. They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God. Tell the brethren if they will follow the spirit of the Lord they will go right." ("Brigham Young's vision of Joseph Smith". *Manuscript History of Brigham Young*. 1847. 56.)

Yield to enticing of HG → receive HG

BRM: stay on path

Good chance you'll be exalted.

[God] sent fiery flying serpents among [the Israelites in the wilderness]; and after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; and the labor which they had to perform was to look; and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished. (1 Nephi 17:41)

Quotes

A. "Satan does not need to overpower us... to win the war. He only needs to get us to adopt his way of fighting it." (C. Terry Warner, *Honest, Simple, Solid, True*, BYU Devotional 1-16-96)

B. Unhappiness comes from my attempts to control people or events over which I have no control.

C. "The great plan of happiness ... would not be called the eternal plan of salvation/happiness/redemption/mercy... if its primary effect was the damnation of the vast majority of God's offspring. ... And the assumption that our mother in heaven would idly sit back and allow such a guaranteed flop to eternally strip her of any interaction with her spirit offspring is equally unfathomable. ... Those of us who shouted for joy ... felt that the odds were in our favor. ... If the Father had informed us that 'there's good news and bad news' ... 'The good news is there is a Plan, but the bad news is *most* of you are not going to make it back ...' surely we would not have felt reason to rejoice." (Gaskill, *Odds Are ...*, 17-18)

D. Elder McConkie: “Far more of our Father’s children will be exalted than we think!” ... “Who can count the number of saved beings in eternity? Our God, who is victorious in all battles against the forces of evil, will surely be victorious in the numbers of his children who will be saved.” (*Odds Are*, 21)

E. Wilford Woodruff & Lorenzo Snow: Very few, if any [in the spirit world] ... will not accept the gospel. (*Odds* 37)

F. Elder McConkie: “All faithful Latter-day Saints—those who chart their course toward eternal life, receive the ordinances of salvation, and strive with all their hearts to be true to their covenants—will gain eternal life. Even though they are certainly not perfect when they die, if they have sought to stay on course, in covenant, in harmony with the mind and will of God, they will be saved in the highest heaven. ... We ought to have hope, [and] we [need] to be positive and optimistic about attaining that glory.” (*Odds Are* ..., 20)

G. Elder Nelson: “My heart goes out to conscientious Saints who, because of their shortcomings, allow feelings of depression to rob them of happiness in life. We all need to remember; men are that they might have joy—not guilt trips.” (*Ensign*, Nov. ‘95, 86)

H. President Hinckley: “We are the creatures of our thinking. We can talk ourselves into defeat or we can talk ourselves into victory ... Don’t partake of the spirit of our times. Look for the good and build on it. Don’t be a ‘pickle sucker.’” (*Odds Are*... 83)

I. Pres. Ezra Taft Benson: “The central issue in that premortal council was: Shall the children of God have untrammelled agency to choose the course they should follow, whether good or evil, or shall they be coerced and forced to be obedient? Christ and all who followed Him stood for the former proposition—freedom of choice; Satan stood for the latter—coercion and force. The war that began in heaven over this issue is not yet over. The conflict continues on the battlefield of mortality. And one of Lucifer’s primary strategies has been to restrict our agency through the power of earthly governments. ... By deriving its just powers from the governed, government becomes primarily a mechanism for defense against bodily harm, theft, and involuntary servitude. It cannot claim the power to redistribute money or property nor to force reluctant citizens to perform acts of charity against their will.” (*Ensign*, Sep 1987, 6)

J. Ezra Taft Benson: George Washington warned, “Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!” It is an instrument of force and unless our conscience is clear that we would not hesitate to put a man to death, put him in jail or forcibly deprive him of his property for failing to obey a given law, we should oppose it. ... There is one simple test. Do I as an individual have a right to use force upon my neighbor to accomplish this goal? If I do have such a right, then I may delegate that power to my government to exercise on my behalf. If I do not have that right as an individual, then I cannot delegate it to government, and I cannot ask my government to perform the act for me. To be sure, there are times when this principle of the proper role of government is most annoying and inconvenient. If I could only force the ignorant to provide for themselves, or the selfish to be generous with their wealth! (“The Proper Role of Government,” long version; abridged form was given in General Conference, Oct. 1968)

1. Pre-Existence & War in Heaven:

- "...Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the **agency** of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own **power**..." (Moses 4:3)
- Free Agency →
- Free: aware of 2+ choices
- Agency: ability or authority to carry out
- Moral Agency →
- According to the laws and constitution of the people, which I have suffered to be established, ...⁷⁸ That every man may act ... according to the **moral agency** which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment....⁸⁰ And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose... (D&C 101:77-80)
- Moral: aware of good and evil choices
- Agency: ability or authority to carry out
- Satan: What about the weak who won't make it back? My plan will take care of the weak.
- WI Satan won?
- No law → no evil
- Convert shoulds to musts (law) and enforce laws
- "We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the **free exercise of conscience**, the **right and control of property**, and the **protection of life**.... We believe that...**crime**... murder, treason, robbery, theft, and the breach of the general peace... **should be punished** according to their criminality and their tendency to evil among men,.... [We] do not believe... any **religious society** has authority ... to take from them this world's goods, or to put them in jeopardy of either life or limb, or to inflict any physical punishment upon them. They can only excommunicate them from their society, and withdraw from them their fellowship." (D&C 134:2,8,10)

2. Garden of Eden: "The Lord said ... in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his **agency**;" (Moses 7:32)

- **Know good from evil:** "And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore they are agents unto themselves..." (Moses 6:56; 2 Nephi 2:26:27)
- **Law & Consequences:** "if ye shall say there is no **law**, ye shall also say there is no **sin**. If ye shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no **righteousness**. And if there be no righteousness there be no **happiness**. And if there be no righteousness nor happiness there be no **punishment** nor **misery**. And if these things are not there is no God. And if there is no God we are not, neither the earth; for there could have been no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away." (2 Nephi 2:10-13)
- **Opposition:** "it must needs be that there was an opposition; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter. Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be

that he was enticed by the one or the other." (2 Nephi 2:15-16; D&C 29:39-40; Moroni 7:12-18)

- **Devil:** "it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves" (D&C 29:39)

3. The Fall

- Justice:
- Mosiah 16:3 - carnal, sensual, devilish
- opposite: things of God-spirit, spiritual, Christ-like
- carnal desires: money=gain, fame, power, lusts of the flesh

4. Atonement

- Mosiah 3:19 - put off natural man, become saint
- Justice and Mercy

5. Yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit

- "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are **foolishness** unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14)
- "And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through **disobedience**, from the children of men, and because of the **tradition of their fathers**." (D&C 93:36-37, 39)
- Was Christ perfect? ... In the eyes of the Jewish leaders of His time? Why did they reject him?
- Traditions of men
- Disobedience
- Commando Bball
- Korihor: No rules, no refs
- Rules/Laws → Good/Bad