

D & C Lesson 19

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, June 2001

What do you think of when you hear “Heavenly Father’s Plan of _____”?

A. **Salvation** - Alma 24:14; 42:5; Moses 6:62. B. **Happiness** - Alma 42:8, 16.

C. **Redemption** - Jacob 6:8; Alma 12:25-33. D. **Restoration** - Alma 41:2.

E. **Mercy** - Alma 42:15, 31.

Joseph Smith: “The great plan of salvation is a theme which ought to occupy our strict attention, and be regarded as one of heaven’s best gifts to mankind.” [Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 1976, p. 68]

1. Pre-mortal Life

A. [D&C 93:29] “Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. 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.” Intelligences were “organized” before the creation of the earth [Abra. 3:22], to become spirit children of God.

B. We are all sons and daughters of God, and we lived in a pre-mortal existence as His spirit children. [D&C 76:24] The inhabitants of the worlds are “begotten sons and daughters of God,” and God the Father is the “Father of spirits” to whom we are subject.

C. Before this earth was created, God the Father presented his plan of salvation to His spirit children in a great council meeting. We learn elements of His plan from various scriptures:

1. [Moses 1:39] God’s work and glory is “to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

2. [Moses 1:27-38] Many earths have been and will be created, and will pass away. But God told us through Moses, “Only an account of this earth and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you.”

3. [2 Ne. 2:22-25] To begin mortal life on this earth, Adam was to fall “that men might be.” Without the “fall,” mortal life would not have existed on this earth and God’s plan could not proceed. [Moses 5:10-11] Adam and Eve rejoiced because of the eternal results of their fall.

4. [Al. 12:24] Mortal life was to be a probationary state in which man was to prepare to meet and live eternally with God.

5. [2 Ne. 2:26] To overcome the negative effects of the fall [*physical* and *spiritual death*], there was to be a Savior who would come to earth to redeem mankind.

6. [Abra. 3:27-28] Jesus, our oldest brother, was chosen to be the Savior and to redeem mankind from the fall. “*The Atonement of Jesus Christ makes the plan of salvation possible. The Savior is the central figure in God’s plan for our salvation.*” [Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 106]

7. [Moses 4:1-4] Lucifer sought that honor but was not chosen because he sought to destroy man’s free agency, so he rebelled and became Satan, the father of all lies. [D&C 29:36-39] He and his followers were cast out of heaven and, after this earth was created, came here to tempt men and lead them into wickedness.

8. [D&C 138:55-56] Heavenly Father chose and foreordained noble spirits to carry forth his work here upon the earth.

9. [Job 38:7] We may have been present and among the morning stars [leading spirits]

who sang when “all the sons of God shouted for joy,” very likely when they learned of our Heavenly Father’s plan.

2. Mortal Life

A. [Abra. 3:26] When we accepted Heavenly Father’s plan in our premortal life, we kept our “first estate.” Because of our faithfulness, we were given the opportunity to come to earth, which is our “second estate.”

B. [D&C 29:40-44] The fall of Adam and Eve set up the conditions under which mankind must live here on the earth. (1) We are subject to the temptations of Satan. (2) We are subject to *physical death* [we must die to leave mortality] and *spiritual death* [we are separated from the presence of God]. (3) God set up the plan of salvation so man would know the process of repentance and redemption through faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ. (4) Life became a probationary state [we are here to be tested and to prove ourselves (*to ourselves*—God, with His infinite knowledge, already knows how we will conduct ourselves), so we will have to acknowledge that God’s final judgment upon us is just].

C. [2 Ne. 2:11, 14-16] The fall of Adam and Eve was necessary to set up the earthly condition of opposition in all things, so all mankind would be compelled to make personal choices to determine their eternal status.

D. [Mos. 3:19] The fall of Adam and Eve made mortals begin their probation here on earth as a “natural man,” who is in the “starting position” of being an enemy to God.

E. [2 Ne. 2:27-29] ***The most important task one must fulfill here on earth is to choose*** either “liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men,” or to choose “captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil.”

F. [2 Ne. 2:26] The Messiah, Jesus Christ, came in the meridian of time to redeem the children of men from the fall of Adam and Eve. Again, “*The atonement of Jesus Christ makes the plan of salvation possible. The Savior is the central figure in God’s plan for our salvation.*”

G. Other purposes and tasks of mortal life:

1. [D&C 93:33-34] To receive a mortal body (which later will become an immortal body through the resurrection process), because a spirit, without its body, cannot receive a fulness of joy. [D&C 88:15-16] The spirit and body together constitute the “soul” of man, and “the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.” **Joseph Smith:** “We came to this earth that we might have a body and present it pure before God in the celestial kingdom.” [Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 181]

2. [Abra. 3:25-26] To prove our faithfulness through obedience to God’s commandments.

3. [Al. 12:24] To prepare ourselves for eternal life following the resurrection.

4. [D&C 136:4] To receive the ordinances of salvation and exaltation. “And this shall be our covenant—that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord.”

5. To receive and perform sealing ordinances which unite us with our forefathers and our descendants for eternity. The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve proclaimed that “marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children. . . . 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,”

Ensign, November 1995, p. 102]

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