

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 <sup>st</sup> death	carnal, sensual, devilish, temptation, adversity	Physical death	Paradise, spirit prison	Resurrection Judgment	<b>Telestial Perdition</b>

## #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 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. 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. Oct: Joseph gives conference talk on baptism for dead.
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) 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. Jun 27. Joseph and Hyrum killed in Carthage
1894	Apr 5: Wilford Woodruff: genealogy, sealing to ancestors
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
- 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." (*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 ... 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)

### 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].

### 3. Perdition and Sons of Perdition

Lucifer [HEB morning star; L light bearing], son of the morning; Satan [HEB adversary], Devil [GR slanderer; speak evil of], 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)

**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 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." (*TPJS*, 358/371)

"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).

### 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. And this is the *gospel, the glad tidings*, ...—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; That through him all might be saved whom the Father had put into his power and made by him; Who glorifies the Father, and *saves all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition*. ... 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—

**5. Who will be resurrected?**

**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.”

Celestial	Highest degree: celestial marriage 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, ...

**Laws of Love**

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

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

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

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

Preexistence	
War in heaven	
Creation, garden, Fall	
Purpose of earth life	
Atonement	
Spirit world	
Resurrection	
Judgment	
3 heavens	

**9. How does Satan use these doctrines against us?**

**10. Conclusion**

**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.” (Manuscript History of Brigham Young, 1847. 56.)

**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*, Sept. 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)