

# #1: “This is my work and my glory”

Monte F. Shelley, 3 Jan 2010

*As man now is, God once was:*

*As God now is, man may be.* (Lorenzo Snow, 1840)

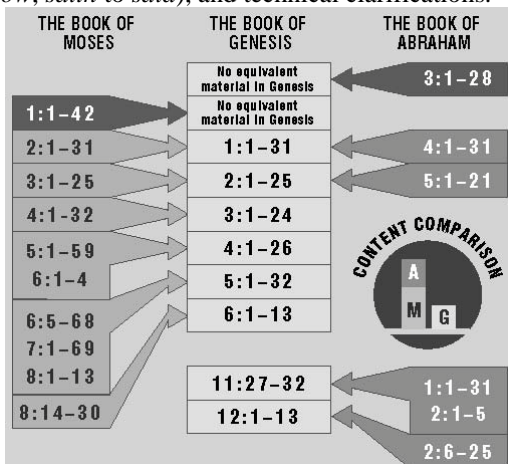
## Personal Study Resources

- Seminary.lds.org (Old Testament)
- Institute.lds.org (Old Testament and Pearl of Great Price)

Timeline of Joseph’s Scripture Study	
1820	Reading James 1:5 in New Testament. Spring. Joseph’s first vision
1823	Sept 21–22. Moroni appeared to Joseph. He quoted “the prophecies of the Old Testament” (Mal 3–4; Isa. 11; Acts 3:22–23=Deut 18:15; Joel 2).
1829	Apr–Jun. Joseph translated Book of Mormon.
1830	Mar. Book of Mormon published Apr 6. Church officially organized. May–Jun. False accusations, court battles, mobs. Jun–Dec. Moses 1–7
1831	Feb–Mar 7. Moses 8. Finished Gen 7–24. Mar 7. D&C 45:60–62 begin New Testament. Mar 8–Feb 1832. JST of New Testament
1832	Jul– Jul 1833. JST: finished rest of Old Testament Dec. D&C 88:126–141. School of Prophets guidelines
1833	Mar 8. D&C 90. “study and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages” (90:15)
1835	Jul. Joseph obtained papyri containing writings of Abraham and began translating off and on. Parts of the book of Abraham were completed between 1837 and 1842. Nov 20. Oliver returned from New York with Hebrew and Greek books for the school. Joseph began to study them.
1836	Jan–Mar. School of the prophets studied Hebrew.

## 1. Joseph Smith Translation (JST)

The JST restores to the Bible “many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord [which were] taken away” (1 Ne. 13:26, 39–40). The JST has long revealed additions, interpretive additions, and wording changes. 3,410 JST verses differ from KJV. 1289 OT verses differ (25 in Moses 1 and 662 in Genesis → 53% of OT verses and 20% of OT+NT verses). The most common changes were grammar, modern terms (e.g., *wot to know, saith to said*), and technical clarifications.



About half of the D&C revelations are related to this translation process, including the three degrees of glory (D&C 76), the eternal nature of marriage and plural marriage (D&C 132), teachings on baptism for the dead (D&C 124), various revelations on priesthood (D&C 84, 88, 107) and others.

## 2. Temple Rituals and Heavenly Ascent Stories

Ancient temple rituals depict a figurative journey into the presence of God. Heavenly ascent stories describe prophets who pass through the veil and enter into the presence of God in the heavenly temple. There the prophet may experience a vision of eternity or receive certain blessings from God Himself.

Prologue <sup>1-2</sup>	Epilogue <sup>41-42</sup>
In spirit world <sup>3-8</sup>	Stands in presence of Lord <sup>31-40</sup>
	Sees earth and all inhabitants <sup>27-30</sup>
	Calls on God, hears voice behind veil <sup>24-26</sup>
Falls to earth <sup>9-11</sup>	Defeats/overcomes Satan <sup>12-23</sup>

## 3. Spiritual highs and lows

### 4. Prologue

The words of God, which he spake unto Moses at a time when Moses was caught up into an exceedingly high mountain,<sup>2</sup> And he saw God face to face, and he talked with him, and the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence.

### 5. Moses in Spirit World

<sup>3</sup> And God spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I am the Lord God Almighty, and Endless is my name; for I am without beginning of days or end of years; and is not this endless?

<sup>4</sup> And, behold, thou art my son; wherefore look, and I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, ...<sup>5</sup> Wherefore, no man can behold all my works, except he behold all my glory; and no man can behold all my glory, and afterwards remain in the flesh on the earth.

<sup>6</sup> And I have a work for thee, Moses, my son; and thou art in the similitude of mine Only Begotten; and mine Only Begotten is and shall be the Savior, for he is full of grace and truth; but there is no God beside me, and all things are present with me, for I know them all.<sup>7</sup> And now, ... this one thing I show unto thee, Moses, my son, for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee.

<sup>8</sup> And ... Moses looked, and beheld the world upon which he was created; and Moses beheld the world and the ends thereof, and all the children of men which are, and which were created; of the same he greatly marveled and wondered.

### 6. Moses Falls to Earth

<sup>9</sup> And the presence of God withdrew from Moses, that his glory was not upon Moses; and Moses was left unto himself. And ... he fell unto the earth.<sup>10</sup> And ... it was for the space of many hours before Moses did again receive his natural strength like unto man; and he said unto himself: Now, for this cause I know that man is nothing, which thing I never had supposed.

<sup>11</sup> But now mine own eyes have beheld God; but not my natural, but my spiritual eyes, for my natural eyes could not have beheld; for I should have withered and died in his presence; but his glory was upon me; and I beheld his face, for I was transfigured. ...

### 7. Moses Defeats or Overcomes Satan

<sup>12</sup> And ... when Moses had said these words, behold, Satan came tempting him, saying: Moses, son of man, worship me. ...

<sup>13</sup> Moses looked upon Satan and said: Who art thou? For behold, I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten; and where is thy glory, that I should worship thee?<sup>14</sup> For behold, I could not look upon God, except his glory should come upon me. ... But I can look upon thee in the natural man. ...

<sup>15</sup> Blessed be the name of my God, for his Spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me, or else where is thy glory, for it is darkness unto me? And I can judge between thee and God; for God said unto me: Worship God, for him only shalt thou serve.

<sup>16</sup> Get thee hence, Satan; deceive me not; for God said unto me: Thou art after the similitude of mine Only Begotten.

<sup>17</sup> And he also gave me commandments when he called unto me out of the burning bush, saying: Call upon God in the name of mine Only Begotten, and worship me.

<sup>18</sup> And again Moses said: I will not cease to call upon God, I have other things to inquire of him: for his glory has been upon me, wherefore I can judge between him and thee. Depart hence, Satan.

<sup>19</sup> And now, when Moses had said these words, Satan cried with a loud voice, and ranted upon the earth, and commanded, saying: I am the Only Begotten, worship me. ...

<sup>20</sup> Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell. Nevertheless, calling upon God, he received strength, and he commanded, saying: Depart from me, Satan, for this one God [of glory] only will I worship. ...

<sup>21</sup> And now Satan began to tremble, and the earth shook; and Moses received strength, and called upon God, saying: In the name of the Only Begotten, depart hence, Satan.

<sup>22</sup> And ... Satan cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; and he departed hence, even from the presence of Moses, that he beheld him not.

<sup>23</sup> And now of this thing Moses bore record; but because of wickedness it is not had among the children of men. ...

## 8. Moses calls on God and hears voice behind veil

<sup>24</sup> When Satan had departed from the presence of Moses, ... Moses lifted up his eyes unto heaven, being filled with the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son;

<sup>25</sup> And calling upon the name of God, he beheld his glory again, for it was upon him; and he heard a voice, saying: Blessed art thou, Moses, for I, the Almighty, have chosen thee, and thou shalt be made stronger than many waters; for they shall obey thy command as if thou wert God.

<sup>26</sup> And lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days; for thou shalt deliver my people from bondage, even Israel my chosen.

## 9. Moses sees earth and all inhabitants

<sup>27</sup> And ... as the voice was still speaking, Moses cast his eyes and beheld the earth, yea, even all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold, discerning it by the spirit of God.

<sup>28</sup> And he beheld also the inhabitants thereof ... and their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore. ...

<sup>30</sup> And ... Moses called upon God, saying: Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?

## 10. Moses stands in presence of God

<sup>31</sup> And behold, the glory of the Lord was upon Moses, so that Moses stood in the presence of God, and talked with him face to face. And the Lord God said unto Moses: For mine own purpose have I made these things. Here is wisdom and it remaineth in me.

<sup>32</sup> And by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.

<sup>33</sup> And worlds without number have I created; ... for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them. ...

<sup>35</sup> But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you. For behold, there are many worlds ... that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.

<sup>36</sup> And ... Moses spake ..., saying: Be merciful unto thy servant, O God, and tell me concerning this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, and also the heavens, and then thy servant will be content.

<sup>37</sup> And the Lord God spake unto Moses, saying: The heavens, they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man; but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine. ...

<sup>39</sup> For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. <sup>40</sup> And now, Moses, my son, I will speak unto thee concerning this earth upon which thou standest; and thou shalt write the things which I shall speak.

## 11. Epilogue

<sup>41</sup> And in a day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, behold, I will raise up another like unto thee; and they shall be had again among the children of men—among as many as shall believe. <sup>42</sup> (These words were spoken unto Moses in the mount. ... And now they are spoken unto you. Show them not unto any except them that believe. Even so. Amen.)

### Quotes

**Joseph Fielding Smith:** All revelation since the fall has come through Jesus Christ, who is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. ... He is the God of Israel, the Holy One of Israel; the one who led that nation out of Egyptian bondage, and who gave and fulfilled the Law of Moses. The Father has never dealt with man directly and personally since the fall, and he has never appeared except to introduce and bear record of the Son. (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:27)

**Bruce R. McConkie:** We are all aware that all men are the children of God, the offspring of the Father, his sons and daughters. ... What is not so well known is that nearly all passages of scripture, both ancient and modern, which speak of God as our Father and of men on earth being sons of God, have no reference to our birth in preexistence as the children of Eloheim, but teach rather that Jehovah [Christ] is our Father and we are his children. (*Promised Messiah*, 351–352)

**Joseph:** The nearer a person approaches the Lord, a greater power will be manifested by the adversary to prevent the accomplishment of His purposes. (*Life of Heber C. Kimball*, 131)

**Gordon B. Hinckley:** We are here to assist our Father in His work and His glory, 'to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man' (Moses 1:39). Your obligation is as serious in your sphere of responsibility as is my obligation in my sphere. No calling in this church is small or of little consequence. All of us in the pursuit of our duty touch the lives of others. To each of us in our respective responsibilities the Lord has said: ... 'In doing these things thou wilt do the greatest good unto thy fellow beings, and wilt promote the glory of him who is your Lord' (D&C 81:4).

**John A. Widtsoe:** What is man's highest ideal? Under the Gospel it must be to become like the Father. If the Lord's concern is chiefly to bring happiness and joy, salvation, to the whole human family, we cannot become like the Father unless we too engage in that work.

**Joseph:** God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did." (*TPJS* 345–46)

**Dallin H. Oaks:** Consider the power of the idea taught in our beloved song "I Am a Child of God." ... I am a child of God with a spirit lineage to heavenly parents. That parentage defines our eternal potential. That powerful idea is a potent antidepressant. It can strengthen each of us to make righteous choices and to seek the best that is within us. Establish in the mind of a ... person the powerful idea that he or she is a child of God and you have given self-respect and motivation to move against the problems of life.