

LESSON 19 *by Dennis N. Roberts*

The Plan of Salvation

(Objective: help members understand grand scope of Plan of Salvation)

Welcome

Today we are going to look at the big picture, not just a piece of the puzzle.

1- Plan of Salvation is a “heavenly gift” to mankind

- a. Use one word to describe Heavenly Father’s Plan of Salvation.
- b. Alma 42:8 How did Alma describe our Father’s plan?
- c. *Supplement #1 Joseph Smith*

2- Premortal life

- a. D&C 76:24 What does this say about our premortal life?
- b. What do you think was discussed during the council in heaven?
- c. How did Jehovah respond to the plan?
- d. D&C 76:40-42 What role did Jehovah have in the plan?
- e. D&C 76: 25-27 What was Lucifer’s response to plan?
- f. How did we respond to the plan?
- g. How does our knowledge of the preexistence influence us?

3- Mortal life

- a. Abraham 3:26 What is the first and second estate?
- b. What are some conditions of our mortal life?
- c. Moses 5:11 How did Eve describe the Fall?
- d. What are some purposes of our mortal life?
- e. *Supplement #2 First Presidency*
- f. How does your knowledge of this mortal purpose influence you?
- g. What part does Satan play in our mortality?

4- Life after death

- a. Alma 40:11-14 Do mortal actions influence our postmortal life?
- b. D&C 137:7-9 What about those who die without the gospel?
- c. How does atonement help deliver us from the two deaths?
- d. D&C 76:111 Our judgment will be based on what?
- e. D&C 76:51 Our inheritance will be based on what?
- f. How does our knowledge of postmortal life influence us?

How does this apply to me?

Supplement #3 Elder Boyd K Packer

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LESSON 19 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 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*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 68).

SUPPLEMENT #2 First Presidency

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles 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*, Nov. 1995, 102)

SUPPLEMENT #3 Elder Boyd K. Packer

“There are three parts to the plan. You are in the second or the middle part, the one in which you will be tested by temptation, by trials, perhaps by tragedy. ...

“Remember this! The line ‘And they all lived happily ever after’ is never written into the second act [of a play]. That line belongs in the *third* act, when the mysteries are solved and everything is put right. ... “Until you have a broad perspective of the eternal nature of [the plan], you won’t make much sense out of the inequities in life. Some are born with so little and others with so much. Some are born in poverty, with handicaps, with pain, with suffering. Some experience premature death, even innocent children. There are the brutal, unforgiving forces of nature and the brutality of man to man. We have seen a lot of that recently.

“Do not suppose that God willfully causes that which, for His own purposes, he permits. When you know the plan and the purpose of it all, even these things will manifest a loving Father in Heaven”

(*The Play and the Plan* [satellite broadcast, 7 May 1995], 1–2).

How can we truly understand who we are unless we know who we were and what we have the power to become? How can there be real identity without real history? How can one understand his tiny, individual plot without knowing, even a little, about Father's grand, galactic plans? (Neil A. Maxwell, *Ensign*, May 1986, p. 35.)

Remember... The Lion King

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Today we are going to look at the big picture, not just a piece of the puzzle.

Take a puzzle and show one piece and ask what the whole picture is. Even though the pieces are important, they have little meaning if we don't understand the big picture. Knowing the PofS helps us make better eternal decisions.

1- Plan of Salvation is a "heavenly gift" to mankind

- a. Use one word to describe Heavenly Father's Plan of Salvation. Write words on White Board
- b. Alma 42:8 How did Alma describe our Father's plan? How does this plan help bring us happiness?
- c. Supplement #1 Joseph Smith Why is the PofS such a heavenly gift?

Play "I Am a Child of God" from Gladys Knight

2- Premortal life

PofS can be divided into three parts: premortal, mortal, and postmortal / write names on White Board

- a. D&C 76:24 What does this say about our premortal life? Discuss impact of this message / relate to song "I Am a Child of God"
- b. What do you think was discussed during the council in heaven? Atonement, creation, the Fall, future mortal bodies, free agency & choices
- c. How did Jehovah respond to the plan? Obeyed father's will
- d. D&C 76:40-42 What role did Jehovah have in the plan? Atonement makes PofS possible / Jesus is central figure in whole Plan
- e. D&C 76: 25-27 What was Lucifer's response to plan? Why is it important to understand Lucifer's role?
- f. How did we respond to the plan? Why? Why were we so excited to come to this difficult existence?
- g. How does our knowledge of the preexistence influence us? Or in other words, how does knowing our history help us today?

3- Mortal life

The first time you passed through the veil

- a. Abraham 3:26 What is the first and second estate? How do we know we kept our "first estate"?
- b. What are some conditions of our mortal life? Because of Fall, we subject to two deaths.
- c. Moses 5:11 How did Eve describe the Fall? How is it a blessing?
- d. What are some purposes of our mortal life? Physical body, prove faithfulness, be sealed as families, experiences
- e. Supplement #2 First Presidency How does blessing this apply to singles or part member families?
- f. How does your knowledge of this mortal purpose influence you? When making decisions, knowledge is power!
- g. What part does Satan play in our mortality? He allows the plan to work because he gives us agency to choose

4- Life after death

Life does not end with physical death / we've had several funerals in ward recently

- a. Alma 40:11-14 Do mortal actions influence our postmortal life? We will be judged based upon our individual capabilities
- b. D&C 137:7-9 What about those who die without the gospel? Who are we to judge whether someone "rejected" the gospel?
- c. How does atonement help deliver us from the two deaths? "All" will be resurrected; repentance allows us to return to Father
- d. D&C 76:111 Our judgment will be based on what?
- e. D&C 76:51 Our inheritance will be based on what?
- f. How does our knowledge of postmortal life influence us? Does having a map help us in making life's decisions?

We won't be blaming others, its based upon our own actions

How does this apply to me?

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