

1r-D&C-20  
The Kingdoms of Glory  
(D&C 76, 131, 137)  
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(Here is inspirational background and Evidences supporting the Restoration)

- I. Foolish men deny the Lord's great Love and Power.
- A. For they **actually believe that Jesus Christ will fail in His ministry.**
  - B. Before the Restoration of all truth, almost all Christians had come to believe that **only a few would be saved**, [those of their own traditions]. Thus they believe in a very small Heaven and a very large Hell.
  - C. By contrast, Latter-day Saints know there will be three Heavens, each with a glory of its own in greater and greater degrees, and a very small Hell.
  - D. Of that enormous Heaven, the Lord revealed:  
“[Except the sons of perdition], *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” (D&C 76:39). (Emphasis added).
  - E. This is significant in that it is now known that ***Jesus Christ will not fail in His great ministry. He will be triumphant! This is indeed cause for great rejoicing!***  
“And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us ---“That through Him *all* might be saved whom the Father had put into his power and made by him; Who glorifies the Father, and **saved *all the works of his hands, except those sons of perdition who deny the Son after the Father has revealed him***” (D&C 76:40. 42-43). (Emphasis added).
    - 1. Note that the revelation further says that Jesus “came into the world... to be crucified for the *world*, and to bear the sins of the *world*, and to *sanctify the world*, and cleanse it from all unrighteousness” (v. 42). (Emphasis added). This means that Jesus' ministry was to save not just a few, but basically the whole World, **and glory be to Him for He will succeed!**
    - 2. These scriptures show how the Lord will accomplish this great feat. And that all will be saved into some degree of glory in the Heavens after the great ministry of the Lord is accomplished. That is after they have had the thousand years of the Millennium to learn and know the truth about Jesus Christ and to see their shame before Him and to repent.
    - 3. That there would be three general degrees of glory was actually spoken of by Paul:  
“There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead**” (1 Corinthians 15:41-2). (Emphasis added).
- II. There are false claims that Mormons believe that only *they* will go to Heaven.
- A. The truth is, as one missionary responded to those questioning, Mormons believe that everyone else will get to Heaven, while only Mormons can be candidates for Hell. For only Latter-day Saints who have come to a perfect knowledge and then reject it, can become Sons of Perdition, the only ones excluded from a Heaven.

- B. “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 to 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” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 358).

III. Foolish men deny God’s love by denying He prepared glorious rewards we cannot envision.

- A. Paul testified of this truth too: “Eyes hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that loveth Him” (1 Cor. 2:9).
- B. In the Latter-days, the Lord revealed those things men alone could not image: “For by my Spirit will I enlighten them, and by my power will I make known unto them the secrets of my will --- yea, even those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor yet entered into the heart of man” (D&C 76:10).
- C. So in these last days, the Lord Himself affirmed:  
“Great is his wisdom, marvelous are his ways, and the extent of his doings none can find out...“For thus saith the Lord --- I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end. Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory” (D&C 76: 2, 5-6).

IV. The Lord’s great love is manifest by His preparing the way for men to become even as He is.

- A. While many today mock Latter-day Saints for believing this, He has taught this from the beginning. And He affirmed this truth during His lifetime.
- B. In fact, *it was for this very belief that He Himself was killed.*

At the time of the last Passover, when Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon’s porch, leaders of the Jews sought to find reason to murder Him. When Jesus said forthrightly, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30), the Jews took up stones to stone Him. He quickly replied, “Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?” (v.32). Their answer was that “For a good work we stone thee not; but ... because thou, being a man, makest thyself God” (v. 33).

The Savior shows them from their own scriptures that **all men have the power to become as God by referring them to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Psalm**, which when understood, reveals this truth.

Jesus then says, “If he called them gods, unto whom [this scripture was given] ... Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?” (v. 35-36).

This was the final straw for those leaders, who then set in motion plans to crucify Him. Later, when He was tried before Caiaphas, it was this same “blasphemy” which caused them to order His crucifixion (Mat. 26:63-66).

If the Savior was murdered for the blasphemy that He was the Son of God, we should not be surprised that our teaching that the Lord has prepared the way, out of love, for us to become like Him, causes the same anger.

- C. The truth is, the **hardest part of becoming like the Father**, for He can help us overcome any physical obstacles, **is to become perfect like Him**. However, **we are actually commanded to do this**. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect” (Mat. 5:48).

D. Why would the Lord command us to do this if it were impossible? *It is possible, with His help. And we are even commanded to strive for it.* We understand it will not be reached in this life, but surely it can be, with His help, in the Eternities.

E. Part of the reason we feel we cannot become perfect is because we strive for a perfection that the world has contrived for us. [Perfect bodies; Perfect talents]. Note the Lord commands we become perfect *as our Father in Heaven is perfect.* This is a very different kind of perfection. *This perfection has to do with righteousness of soul.*

V. Foolish men deny God's Love by denying He prepared the way for Eternal companionship.

A. From the first, God created the man and the woman. He joined them together as man and wife, *and they understood that they were in essence now to be "One Flesh"* (Genesis 2:23-24).

B. If under God the man and woman are to be One, it means *they are to become indivisible.* The Lord Himself reconfirmed this truth: "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.... and they twain shall be one flesh; so then *they are no more twain, but one flesh*" (Mark 10:6-9). "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*" (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:6-9). This includes the meaning that their *Oneness is meant to exist Eternally when the man and woman are joined, or sealed together, by God.*

[Note, some misunderstand Jesus' answer to the Pharisees and Sadducees who question whose wife will the woman be who married seven men. The questioners were unbelievers. So they were not deserving of His true teaching. And neither was God's promise of Eternal Marriage applicable to them --- for they all denied His power to seal and some even the Resurrection itself].

C. On the other hand, ancient texts have been discovered coming from the early Christian period, which indicate Jesus taught in private the ordinance of Eternal Marriage. For example, one of those, the Gospel of Phillip, makes reference to a "mirrored bridal chamber." From Latter-day temples, we know that a mirrored bridal chamber [using mirrors on opposite sides which reflect images from each other, thus giving an "unending" landscape] is used to portray the concept of marriages that extend into the eternities.

VI. Foolish men deny God's Love by denying He prepared the way for Eternal Offspring.

A. While many understand the Lord's covenanting of a Promised Land was actually speaking of Eternal Life, they do not recognize the same perspective in His promise of Seed.

B. When the Lord promised Abraham [and Isaac and Jacob] that they should have seed without number, He was not referring to their progeny in this life --- but in the Heavens. After all, have not the seed of many others who lived in Abraham's time been multiplied on this earth to "seed without number?"

C. The Lord's true meaning was not lost on the discerning. The remnants of the true meaning still exist in Israelite wedding ceremonies. For example, weddings were performed among the Israelites under a canopy. Usually this canopy was set up under the stars or had lights upon it which represented the stars. This was done specifically to *represent the concept of Eternal increase in the heavens.* While that understanding has been lost to most people today, it is the traditional meaning.

D. We are grateful that the Lord has revealed in clarity through His Latter-day prophets that God the Father meant love and marriage endure not only through time, but all eternity. He also meant this love and marriage would continue to be blessed with offspring, which are the sources of their greatest joy and gives their lives their greatest purpose.