

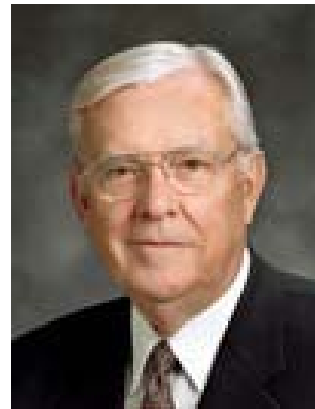
Lesson 1: “This Is My Work and My Glory”

Purpose: To help us understand that (1) we are children of God, (2) we can resist Satan’s temptations, and (3) God’s work and glory is to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life.

Introduction to the Study of the Old Testament

“My brothers and sisters, the Holy Bible is a miracle! It is a miracle that the Bible’s 4,000 years of sacred and secular history were recorded and preserved by the prophets, apostles, and inspired churchmen. ...

“It is not by chance or coincidence that we have the Bible today. Righteous individuals were prompted by the Spirit to record both the sacred things they saw and the inspired words they heard and spoke. Other devoted people were prompted to protect and preserve these records”



(Elder M. Russell Ballard, “The Miracle of the Holy Bible,” Ensign, May 2007).

Jesus Christ is the God of the Old Testament

Jehovah of the Old Testament is the pre-mortal Jesus Christ.

The name Jehovah is “the covenant or proper name of the God of Israel. It denotes ‘the eternal I AM’. Jehovah is the premortal Jesus Christ and came to earth as a son of Mary. Usually, when the word Lord appears in the Old Testament, it means ‘Jehovah.’ Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, “In general, in the King James version of the Bible, the name Jehovah has been translated Lord” (Mormon Doctrine, 2nd ed. [1966], 392).

“Lesson 1: Introduction to the Old Testament,” Old Testament Seminary Teacher Manual (2014)

Major Themes in the Old Testament

As we study the Old Testament, remember these four major themes.

- God calls prophets to preach the gospel and administer His ordinances and covenants.
- If we are faithful to our covenants, then God will bless us in this life and in eternity.
- God's covenant people were scattered because they broke their covenants with Him.
- God has promised to gather His covenant people.

Unit 1: Day 1, Introduction to the Old Testament," Old Testament Study Guide for Home-Study Seminary Students (2014)

My Own Theme of the Old Testament

I have my own Old Testament theme that I believe is also an overall statement made by the Lord, especially to His Old Testament Covenant People, and now today to us.

If you will only allow me, I will fight your battles for you.

Introduction to the Book of Moses

Why study this book? - The Book of Moses is the Joseph Smith Translation of Genesis 1:1 through Genesis 6:13. It teaches the crucial doctrines of the Creation, the Fall, the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the ministries of ancient prophets, such as Adam, Enoch, Noah, and Moses.

Who wrote this book? - The book of Moses is the Prophet Joseph Smith's inspired translation of selections from the writings of Moses.

When and where was it written? - The writings contained in the book of Moses were revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith as he was working on his inspired translation, or revision, of the King James Version of the Bible between June 1830 and February 1831.

"Introduction to the Book of Moses," Old Testament Seminary Teacher Manual (2014)

Moses 1:36-39

36 And it came to pass that Moses spake unto the Lord, 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.

37 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.

38 And as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words.

39 For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

Few scriptures carry as much Gospel truth as Moses 1:39.

Let's look closely at the Lord's purpose and meaning in Moses 1:39.

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

What is the Lord's "work?"

“A few weeks ago, on a cold, dark winter’s night, my wife, Barbara, and I looked in awe up at the sky. The millions of stars seemed exceptionally bright and beautiful. I then turned to the Pearl of Great Price and read again with wonder what the Lord God said to Moses: “And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten” (Moses 1:33).

In our day the Hubble deep-space telescope has confirmed the magnitude of what Moses saw. Hubble scientists say the Milky Way galaxy, of which our earth and sun are just a tiny part, is estimated to be only one of over 200 billion similar galaxies. For me it is difficult to comprehend, impossible to fathom, so large and so vast are God’s creations.”

“This Is My Work and Glory” by Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, April 2013

The Lord's "work" is the creation of worlds without number.

Moses 1:33 - 35

33 And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten.

34 And the first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many.

35 But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you. For behold, there are many worlds that have passed away by the word of my power. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me, for they are mine and I know them.

For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

If the Lord's "work" is the creation of worlds without number, what is the Lord's "glory"?

What does it mean to “bring to pass?”

To provoke, precipitate, or cause something to happen.

To “bring to pass” in Moses 1:39 means that the Lord’s work (the Creation) provided the stimulus for humankind to have free agency, take on a human body and make choices throughout their lives.

The Lord's "glory" is the
immortality and eternal life of
man.

Immortality

“Bringing to pass immortality is essentially a work of creation. God speaks, and worlds are formed. At the culmination of this work, man is placed upon the earth to learn, be tested, and gain experience.

Because of the sacrifice of the Son of God, the hour will come when “all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28–29).

The just as well as the unjust are given a priceless and incomprehensible gift: immortality. Because of Jesus the Christ, we will live forever. We are immortal.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles “Timely Topics: What Is the Difference between Immortality and Eternal Life?” November 2006

Eternal Life

“Eternal life, however, is something altogether different. Immortality is about quantity. Eternal life is about quality. To use a metaphor, immortality is how long the dinner lasts. Eternal life is what is on the menu and who is with us at the table. Eternal life is “the greatest of all the gifts of God” (D&C 14:7). “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Eternal life is the culmination of existence. As spiritual children of God, you and I are heirs to this priceless fortune, benefactors to a glorious future, recipients of grace. If immortality is God’s work, then eternal life is God’s glory. However, eternal life does not come automatically. We must purge our hearts of evil and fill them with the desire to do good continually. Our Heavenly Father, with love that is scarcely within our power to comprehend, desires more than just our immortality. He desires each of us to partake of this greatest of all gifts: eternal life.

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