

Lesson 1 – Moses 1; Abraham 3, “This Is My Work and My Glory”

Preexistence

Abr 3:22-28

22 Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones;

23 And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.

What do we learn from these verses about the preexistence?

We existed as spirits before the we came to this world
As spirits we demonstrate degrees of faith and obedience
Some were chosen to be leaders of the Lord kingdom on earth

Russell M. Nelson

"Your spirit is an eternal entity. The Lord said to His prophet Abraham: 'Thou wast chosen before thou wast born.' The Lord said something similar about Jeremiah and many others. He even said it about you.

"Your Heavenly Father has known you for a very long time. You, as His son or daughter, were chosen by Him to come to earth at this precise time, to be a leader in His great work on earth. You were chosen not for your bodily characteristics but for your spiritual attributes, such as bravery, courage, integrity of heart, a thirst for truth, a hunger for wisdom, and a desire to serve others.

"You developed some of these attributes premortally. Others you can develop here on earth." (CR, Oct. 2013)

The earth was created for us to have a place where we could by tried, tested, and prove ourself

Abr 3:24-26

24 And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell;

25 And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;

26 And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.

How does this mortal existence give us the opportunity to prove our obedience to God's commandments?

Thomas S. Monson

"All of us commenced a wonderful and essential journey when we left the spirit world and entered this often-challenging stage called mortality. The primary purposes of our existence upon the earth are to obtain a body of flesh and bones, to gain experience that could come only through separation from our heavenly parents, and to see if we would keep the commandments....

"When we came to the earth, we brought with us that great gift from God—even our agency. In thousands of ways we are privileged to choose for ourselves. Here we learn from the hard taskmaster of experience. We discern between good and evil. We differentiate as to the bitter and the sweet. We learn that decisions determine destiny.

"... [Our Father in Heaven] did not send us here without direction and guidance. Rather, He has given us the tools we need, and He will assist us as we seek His help and strive to do all in our power to endure to the end and gain eternal life." (CR, Oct. 2014)

Christ made it possible for us follow the Father's plan

Abr 3:27-28

27 And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first.

28 And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate; and, at that day, many followed after him.

Bruce R. McConkie

"After all the hosts of heaven had been taught the gospel of God; after they knew of the perils and trials of a future mortality; after the need for a redeemer had been presented in the courts of glory—the Father propounded these questions and sent them forth through all the seraphic hosts of heaven: 'Whom shall I send to be my Son? Who will put the terms and conditions of my plan into effect? Who will work out the infinite and eternal atonement, whereby all men shall be raised in immortality, with those who believe and obey being raised also unto eternal life?'

"Then it was that his Beloved and Firstborn Son responded: 'Here am I, send me. (Abr 3:27) 'I will be thy Son; I will sponsor thy plan, Father; I will take upon me the sins of all men on conditions of repentance; and, Father, the honor and the glory be thine forever'" (CR, April 1977)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Never has anyone offered so much to so many in so few words as when Jesus said, 'Here am I, send me.'" (CR, April 1976)

Glory of God

There is no chapter in Genesis that corresponds to Moses 1. Joseph Smith said this at the time he received this revelation

Joseph Smith

"I will say, however, that amid all the trials and tribulations we had to wade through, the Lord, who well knew our infantile and delicate situation, vouchsafed for us a supply of strength, and granted us 'line upon line of knowledge—here a little,' and there a little of which the following was a precious morsel." (HC 1:98)

Moses 1:1-3

1 The words of God, which he spake unto Moses at a time when Moses was caught up into an exceedingly high mountain,

2 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.

3 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?

How was Moses able to endure being in the presence of God?

(the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence)

Spencer W. Kimball

"This experience of Moses is in harmony with the scripture, which says: 'For no man has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God. Neither can any natural man abide the presence of God, neither after the carnal mind' (D&C 67:11-12.)

"It must be obvious then that to endure the glory of the Father or of the glorified Christ, a mortal being must be translated or other wise fortified. Moses, a prophet of God, held the protecting Holy Priesthood: '... and the glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence.'" (CR, April 1964)

Note:

Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual – Old Testament

Note: Class members should understand that Jehovah, not Heavenly Father, appeared to Moses in this vision. Jehovah was the premortal Jesus Christ and the God of the Old Testament. He is one with his Father in purpose and represents

him in power and authority. His words are those of the Father, and sometimes, as in Moses 1:6, he speaks in the first person for the Father. (See James E. Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, pg. 470–71.)

The Lord tells Moses that He will show him all things pertaining to this world

Moses 1:4-7

4 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, and also my words, for they never cease.

5 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.

6 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.

7 And now, behold, this one thing I show unto thee, Moses, my son, for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee.

What does Moses learn about his relationship to God?

(thou art my son
thou art in the similitude of mine Only Begotten)

Dallin H. Oaks

“Consider the power of the idea taught in our beloved song ‘I Am a Child of God.’... Here is the answer to one of life’s great questions, ‘Who am I?’ 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” (CR, Oct. 1995)

What is the vision confined to that God shows to Moses?

(I will show thee the workmanship of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end)
(this one thing I show unto thee, Moses, my son, for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee)

Because he cannot comprehend the extent, greatness, and purpose of God's work

Even when he was supported with a portion of the Lord's glory he could hardly comprehend God's work on this earth

Moses 1:8-10

8 And it came to pass that 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.

9 And the presence of God withdrew from Moses, that his glory was not upon Moses; and Moses was left unto himself. And as he was left unto himself, he fell unto the earth

10 And it came to pass that 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.

Why do you think Moses comes to the conclusion that man is nothing?

(Moses beheld the world and the ends thereof... of the same he greatly marveled and wondered)

(presence of God withdrew from Moses... his natural strength like unto man)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"The more we learn about the universe, the more we understand—at least in a small part—what Moses knew. The universe is so large, mysterious, and glorious that it is incomprehensible to the human mind. 'Worlds without number have I created,' God said to Moses. The wonders of the night sky are a beautiful testimony of that truth....

"This conclusion has a striking similarity to the declaration of the ancient prophet Enoch: 'Were it possible that man could number the particles of the earth, yea, millions of earths like this, it would not be a beginning to the number of thy creations' (Moses 7:30.)

"Given the vastness of God's creations, it's no wonder the great King Benjamin counseled his people to 'always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness' (Mosiah 4:11.)" (CR, Oct. 2011)

When Moses was left to his own strength Satan appeared to tempt him

Moses 1:12-14

12 And it came to pass that when Moses had said these words, behold, Satan came tempting him, saying: Moses, son of man, worship me.

13 And it came to pass that 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?

14 For behold, I could not look upon God, except his glory should come upon me, and I were transfigured before him. But I can look upon thee in the natural man. Is it not so, surely?

How did Moses react when Satan called him “son of man” and commanded

Moses worship him?

(I am a son of God... where is they glory)

L. Edward Brown

"Imagine what [Moses] must have felt with the next declaration as recorded in verse 4 of the same chapter: He says, 'And, behold, thou art my son.' This is the Lord God Almighty, and 'Endless is [His] name,' He declared. And then He says to Moses, 'Thou art my son.' What a moment. If the Lord were to appear to you, He would say the same thing.

"Following the Lord's appearance to Moses, Satan appeared to him. He commanded Moses, saying, 'Son of man, worship me.' Moses looked at Satan, and with confidence in the Lord's recent revelation, he rebuked him, saying to Satan: '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?'

"Moses had learned something about himself. He was a son of God. Oh, how important it is that our children be reminded of this truth." (CR, April 1997)

Moses experienced the gory and presence of God. He also experiences the darkness of Satan and the bitterness of hell

Moses 1:16,19-22

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

19 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.
20 And it came to pass that 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 only will I worship, which is the God of glory.

21 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.

22 And it came to pass that 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.

How was Moses able to regain his strength and resist Satan?

(In the name of the Only Begotten, depart hence, Satan)

Gary E. Stevenson

"In other words, Moses said: 'You cannot deceive me, for I know who I am. I was created in the image of God. You don't have His light and glory. So why should I worship you or fall prey to your deception?'

"Now pay attention to how Moses further responds. He declares, 'Get thee hence, Satan; deceive me not.'

"There is much we can learn from Moses's mighty response to temptation from the adversary. I invite you to respond the same way when you feel influenced by temptation. Command the enemy of your soul by saying: 'Go away! You have no glory. Do not tempt or lie to me! For I know I am a child of God. And I will always call upon my God for His help.'

"The adversary, however, does not easily abandon his destructive motives to deceive and demean us. He certainly did not do so with Moses, instead desiring to cause Moses to forget who he was eternally." (CR, Oct. 2019)

Vision of Moses

Now Moses filled with the Holy Ghost and testified of the Father and the Son. The Lord promises Moses great blessings and show him a vision of the world

Moses 1:24-29

24 And it came to pass that when Satan had departed from the presence of Moses, that Moses lifted up his eyes unto heaven, being filled with the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son;

25 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.

26 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.

27 And it came to pass, 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.

28 And he beheld also the inhabitants thereof, and there was not a soul which he beheld not; and he discerned them by the Spirit of God; and their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore.

29 And he beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof.

The lord revealed a similar vision to Abraham

Abr 3:11-12

11 Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord, face to face, as one man talketh with another; and he told me of the works which his hands had made;

12 And he said unto me: My son, my son (and his hand was stretched out), behold I will show you all these. And he put his hand upon mine eyes, and I saw those things which his hands had made, which were many; and they multiplied before mine eyes, and I could not see the end thereof.

21 I dwell in the midst of them all; I now, therefore, have come down unto thee to declare unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen.

But seems that Abraham saw more of the Lords works, and even while being supported by the glory of God he could not see the end of Gods work

Neal A. Maxwell

"Whatever the scale of things, the Lord is there! Whether in speaking of how sun, moon, and stars show 'God moving in his majesty and power' (D&C 88:47) or in describing the lilies of the field as being better arrayed than Solomon in all his finery, who is better qualified than the Creator to make such descriptions of the heaven." (CR, Oct. 1987)

Moses beheld the earth and was able to discerning it by the Spirit of God

Moses 1:30-33,38-39

30 And it came to pass that Moses called upon God, saying: Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?

31 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.

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

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.

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.

What two questions did Moses have for God and what was God's reply?

(why these things are so, and by what thou madest them)

(For mine own purpose have I made these things

by the word of my power, have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten

Son)

Based on verse 39, how would you answer Moses's conclusion in verse 10 that “man is nothing”?

M. Russell Ballard

“What a wonderful, warm, and reassuring thing it is to know that the primary objective of the very God of heaven is 'the immortality and eternal life of man', or, in other words, our eternal happiness and joy. Sometimes I wonder if we really appreciate what that means and how it should affect our lives. We must give adequate attention to the doctrines of happiness—real happiness, infinite and eternal. They should be the objective of everything we teach in the Church and of everything we do.” (CR, April 1995)

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.’ 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.” (CR Apr. 1995)

Moses 1:40-41

40 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

41 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.

What work will be done ‘when the children of men shall esteem [these] words as naught’?

(and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write
I will raise up another like unto thee; and they shall be had again among the children of men)

Do you think the work’s been done? If so, by whom?

Joseph Smith – this chapter and the whole JST

Joseph Smith Translation

Fifty years ago we would have discussed how we are still waiting for verse 41 to fully come to pass because we would not be able to teach from the JST

[Story of my experience with the JST while in the Aaronic Priesthood]

A few questions about the JST -

Why do we now include portions of the JST in our publication of the bible?

What is the relationship between the Book of Moses and the JST?

The Book of Moses is the first 8 chapters of the JST

Why do we only have the first 8 chapters of the JST as canonized scripture in the Pearl of Great Price?

The RLDS church uses the whole JST as their version of the bible. Why don't we?

Some historical highlights will help us to answer these questions about the JST

After death of Joseph Smith, the manuscript and bible became the property of Emma. She felt there safe-keeping was her responsibility.

In 1854 Willard Richards, acting on behalf of Pres. Young, requested them from Emma but she refused.

Emma kept them till 1866 when she gave them to her son, who was President of the RLDS church.

Meanwhile, in 1850 while Willard Richards was Mission President of Britain, he compiled a number of choice documents into a pamphlet he called the Pearl of Great Price. Included was JST of first 6 chapters of Genesis and Matt 24 because they were printed in early church publications.

In 1867 the RLDS church published "Inspired Version". But the Church could not confirm its accuracy because the RLDS church would not allow us access to original manuscript and bible

In 1944 the RLDS church published a revised version of their "Inspired Version". This added to the speculation of the publications inaccuracy.

In 1968 the RLDS church microfilmed the manuscript and Bible (insuring it against loss and making original content more accessible).

In 1968 the leadership of RLDS church changed.

Prompted by this, Dr. Robert J. Matthews, Prof of Ancient Scripture at BYU, requested and was given permission to study the originals.

He determined that the Bible published by RLDS church is true to Joseph Smith's original work. This brought down our main brier to the acceptance of the

JST. We could verify it's accuracy.

In 1979 the Church publish a bible and it contained many references to the JST in the footnotes and an appendix.

Dr. Robert J. Matthews (who did the early work) divided the significant contributions of JST into 3 categories:

- Correcting contradictions
- Clarifications (the majority)
- Life and works of the Prophets

This last category is especially significant to our study of the Old Testament
Let's look at Genesis:

(JST Appendix starting with page 797 (Or as it's own document in the Church's personal device Library application, under Scriptures))

- Genesis 1 (PofGP) gives us Moses' vision
- Genesis 6-7 (PofGP) gives us the account of Enoch and his city
- Genesis 9 has an additional 14 verses about Noah and the flood
- Genesis 14 adds a number of verses about Melchizedek and the priesthood
- Genesis 17 gives us more information Abraham and the covenant
- Genesis 48 & 50 tells us more about Joseph and prophecies about the dependents of Ephraim and Manasseh

This quote by George Q. Cannon references another very important contribution of the JST

George Q. Cannon

“Joseph did not live to give to the world an authoritative publication of these translations. But the labor was its own reward, bringing in the performance a special blessing of broadening comprehension to the prophet and a general blessing of enlightenment to the people through subsequent teachings.” (Life of Joseph Smith the Prophet, pg. 147-48)

What do you think Elder Cannon meant by, “the labor was its own reward”?

(broadening comprehension to the prophet
enlightenment to the people through subsequent teachings)

Sections 74, 77, 76, 84, 86, 88, and 132 came as a direct result of the translation