

ENCOUNTERING THE MORMON MISSIONARIES WITH
T H E
B I B L E

WHAT IS THE PLAN OF SALVATION?

The plan of salvation^{*} is God's plan for the happiness of His children. It is centered on the Atonement of Jesus Christ. If you will follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, you will find lasting inner peace in this life and eternal joy after death.

As you learn about the plan of salvation, you will find answers to these questions: "Where did I come from?" "What is my purpose in life?" "Where will I go after this life?"

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

Your life did not begin at birth, nor will it end at death. You are made up of a spirit body (sometimes called the soul) and a physical body. Your Heavenly Father created your spirit, and you lived with Him as a spirit before you were born on earth. You knew and loved Him, and He knew and loved you. This period is called pre-earth life.

The plan of [salvation] ... was prepared from the foundation of the world, through Christ, for all whosoever would believe on his name."

Alma 22:13

Throughout your pre-earth life, you were taught the principles and commandments that would lead to happiness. You grew in intelligence and learned to love the truth. You were taught about the plan of salvation. During this pre-earth life, Jesus Christ was chosen as the Savior; you learned that through Him you would be able to overcome the effects of your wrong choices.

^{*}Words in red are defined on pages 19 and 20.
The family is central to our Heavenly Father's plan.



... was for you to come to earth ... to learn to make correct choices. ... in Heavenly Father's presence, ... to know right from wrong.

Although your memory of it is withheld, before you came to this earth you lived in the presence of God, your Eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. You shouted for joy when given the privilege of coming to this earth to receive a body and to follow God's plan for your happiness.

... Heavenly Father when your life on earth was over. In your pre-earth life, you learned that only by choosing to follow God's plan could you receive lasting peace and satisfaction in this life and for eternity. Because He loves you, your Heavenly Father gave you agency, or the power to make choices. He let you choose whether you would follow His plan and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan, one of God's spirit children, rebelled against our Heavenly Father and did not accept His plan. He wanted to force us all to do his will. Sadly, many of our Heavenly Father's children chose to follow Satan. Satan and his followers were sent away from God's presence and were not allowed to be born on earth. They continue to exist as spirits. They are miserable, and they want you to be miserable. They tempt you and all God's children to do things that bring unhappiness and that are not pleasing to God.

^{*}Words in red are defined on pages 19 and 20.
We have much to learn and experience during this life.

Plan of Salvation

Spiritual existence prior to this life? Not Biblical
More elect or righteous in the pre-existence? Not Biblical

1 Corinthians 15:46: "The **spiritual did not come first**, but the natural, and after that the spiritual."

John 8:23: "But he continued, "**You are from below**; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

Romans 2:11: "For God does not show favoritism."

...how God's plan. Because of your choices, you were born on earth. Only by making these same choices can you find peace in this life and be able to return to live with your Heavenly Father after this life is over.

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE?

The Creation and the Fall

The earth was created as a place for our Heavenly Father's children to live and gain experience. Adam and Eve were the first of God's children to come to earth. They lived in a place called the Garden of Eden, where they were still in God's presence.

Our Heavenly Father gave Adam and Eve agency, or freedom to choose. He commanded them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Obeying this commandment meant they could remain in the garden, but they could not progress by learning from experiences and challenges. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, and they chose to do so. This was part of God's plan. Because of their decision, they were separated from God's presence physically and spiritually. They became mortal, that is, subject to sin and death. They were unable to return to Him without His help. Their physical and spiritual separation from God is called the Fall.

Our Heavenly Father sent angels and the Holy Ghost to teach Adam and Eve the plan of salvation. Central to this plan is the Atonement of Jesus Christ, which enables God's children to overcome the effects of the Fall and have joy in this life and in eternity.

*Words in red are defined on pages 18 and 19.

If Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. . . .

"And [Adam and Eve] would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin.

"But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.

"Adam felt that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy."

2 Nephi 2:22-25

Adam & Eve/The Fall

Adam & Eve to eat the fruit as part of the plan? Not Biblical
Man can become a god? Not Biblical
God is glorified man, Adam made in his image? Not Biblical

God's image given to man is a spiritual image of displaying God's attributes such as love, peace, and righteousness (Col 3:9-10)

God would never have put Adam & Eve in a position where they would have to sin in order to fulfill His first command to have children.

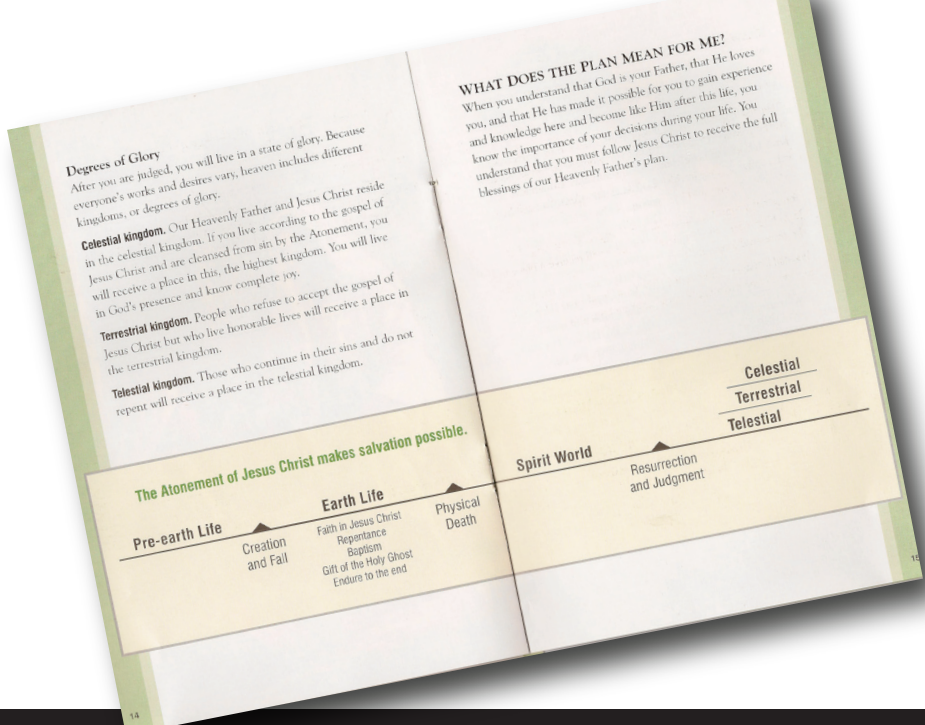
God does not plan temptation: James 1:13: "When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone"

Create in God's image after conversion: Colossians 3:9-10: "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Restored Fellowship with God: John 8:44: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."



Important: Ask questions regarding who they believe Christ to be! Compare to: John 1:1, 1:14, 8:23, Isaiah 45:21-22, 1 Timothy 3:16



3 Degrees of Glory & Baptisms for the dead?

No Biblical basis for “degrees of heaven”

Exaltation within the Celestial Kingdom promises “Godhood.”

Belief that obedience and works merit levels of glory; not Biblical

No Spirit World to Accept Gospel, This Life is the Only Time to Accept Christ:

Hebrews 9:27: “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...”

Not justified by obedience to the law: Galatians 2:16: “know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”

Through Christ not obedience to law: Galatians 2:20: “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” Additional scripture: Colossians 2:14

God & Christ’s Testimony about Life Eternal: 1 John 5:9-13, John 3:14-18, 36

Requirement for Life Eternal: John 6:27-29

Baptisms for the dead, Proxy work, not Biblical: 1 Timothy 1:4, Titus 3:9, Mathew 22:30

HOW CAN I KNOW?

A greater knowledge of the plan of salvation has come because of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

You can know for yourself that these things are true by asking your Heavenly Father in prayer. He will answer you through the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is also called the Spirit of

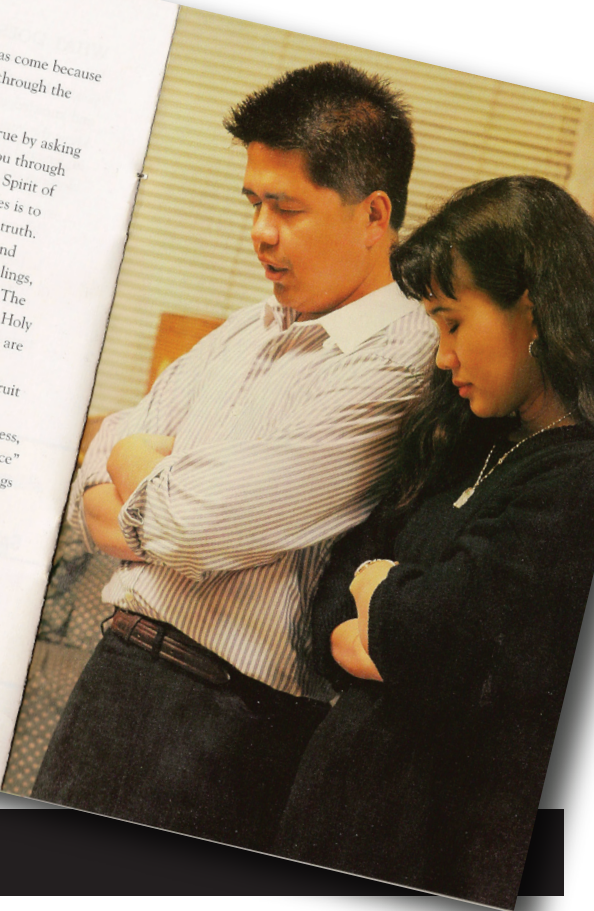
How Do I Pray?

- Address your Heavenly Father.
- Express the feelings of your heart (gratitude, questions, requests to confirm the truth of the Book of Mormon and of what the missionaries have taught).
- Close ("In the name of Jesus Christ, amen").

whether you will live in harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ as restored through Joseph Smith.

God, and one of His roles is to witness, or testify, of the truth. The Holy Ghost reveals and confirms truth through feelings, thoughts, and impressions. The feelings that come from the Holy Ghost are powerful, but they are also usually gentle and quiet. As taught in the Bible, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, [and] temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23). These feelings are a confirmation from the Holy Ghost that this message is true.

You will then need to choose whether you will live in harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ as restored through Joseph Smith.



Pray About This?

The missionaries will ask you to pray regarding the truthfulness of what they have taught. They will indicate that you should receive a witness from the "Holy Ghost" regarding the truth of this pamphlet and the Book of Mormon.

Heart is corrupt: Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure..."

Additional info on not trusting our heart: Proverbs 28:6, Mark 7:20-23

Don't believe every spirit: 1 John 4:1,6: "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Spiritual Messages Must Be Tested By God's Word: 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Prove all things: 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Test everything. Hold on to the good."