

Silver Lake Stake  
Adult Institute Class

“Repentance and Forgiveness”

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**WEEK TWO**



## TWO MAIN IDEAS from last week:

- There is a difference between seeking to change and seeking to be changed.
- All of us need the Atonement of Christ the same, everyday.

# Titles of The Plan

**The merciful plan of the great Creator** (see 2 Nephi 9:6).

**The plan of mercy** (see Alma 42:15).

**The great plan of mercy** (see Alma 42:31).

**The plan of salvation** (see Jarom 1:2; Alma 24:14; 42:5).

**The great plan of redemption** (see Alma 34:31).

**The eternal plan of redemption** (see Alma 34:16).

**The great plan of the Eternal God** (see Alma 34:9).

**The eternal plan of deliverance** (see 2 Nephi 11:5).

**The plan of happiness** (see Alma 42:16).

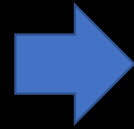
**The great plan of happiness** (see Alma 42:8).

**The plan of restoration** (see Alma 41:2).

**The plan of our God** (2 Nephi 9:13).

**The plan of redemption**  
(see Jacob 6:8; Alma 12:25–26, 30, 32; 17:16;  
18:39; 22:13–14; 29:2; 39:18; 42:11, 13).

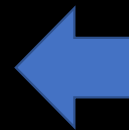
The  
Three  
Pillars



*The Creation,  
The Fall,  
The Atonement*

AND

*Premortal Life,  
Mortality,  
Eternal Life*



A  
Three-  
Act Play

Identity is everything!

Identity determines eternity!

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Everyday  
Satan is committing the crime  
of  
*Identity Theft.*

**Equally complete now is each of our lives before the Lord. ...We are continually before him—the totality of our psyches, personalities, bodies, choices, and behaviors. Knowledge of this fact should change our entire approach to life. For life becomes, then, not a cumulative, additive process, one in which we layer on increments of perfection like successive coats of lacquer. Life is rather a challenge to discover who we are, not to determine who we shall become.**

**Who were we, and what were we when we shouted for joy as the foundations of the earth were laid? What feats did we perform in the great battle in heaven? How did we keep our first estate? Why and by whom were we foreordained to the holy priesthood, to leadership positions, to heirship in the house of Israel? In what way are we created in the image of God; how are we his sons and daughters; how literal is our endowment to become kings, priests, and gods?**



**The greater prophecy is not what we shall be,  
but who we are. The challenge is not to add on  
perfection, but to strip away blindness and  
corruption and to discover who we are. The  
essence is greater than the promise. We are better  
subsumed in being than we are in becoming.**

**(Lael Woodbury, CES Comm. Lecture Series)**



October 2007 Conference

Oh, it is wonderful to know that our Heavenly Father loves us—even with all our flaws! His love is such that even should we give up on ourselves, He never will.

We see ourselves in terms of yesterday and today. Our Heavenly Father sees us in terms of forever. Although we might settle for less, Heavenly Father won't, for He sees us as the glorious beings we are capable of becoming.



## President Uctdorf

I testify that God sees us as we truly are—and He sees us worthy of rescue. You may feel that your life is in ruins. You may have sinned. You may be afraid, angry, grieving, or tortured by doubt. But just as the Good Shepherd finds His lost sheep, if you will only lift up your heart to the Savior of the world, He will find you. He will rescue you. He will lift you up and place you on His shoulders. He will carry you home.

April 2016 General Conference



**President Monson**, October 2013 General Conference

Your Heavenly Father loves you—each of you. That love never changes... It is there for you when you are sad or happy, discouraged or hopeful. God's love is there for you whether or not you feel you deserve love. It is simply always there.

. . . We do not ever walk alone. I promise you that you will one day stand aside and look at your difficult times, and you will realize that He was always there beside you.

**Are we spiritual beings having  
human experiences,**

**Or**

**Are we human beings  
having spiritual experiences**

**???**

***Man was also in the beginning with God. . . For man is spirit.***

(Doctrine and Covenants 93:29-33)

Man is not so much lime, phosphate, and other gross materials, but man is spirit; and begotten spirits . . . partake of the nature of him who begets them. There is this difference between a created thing and a begotten personage: A created thing may not partake of the nature of him who creates it; as for instance, the vessel, constructed and put forth into the sea under the cunning hands of the shipwright, does not partake of the nature of its creator; but if the shipwright shall beget a son, he imparts to him of his own nature, and the offspring in a general way is like him who begets it. So when we speak of God creating man we ought to make this distinction. God begets spirits, and these spirits, male and female, partake of the nature of God.

(Elder Brigham H. Roberts, April Conference, 1904, p.97)

# WHO ARE YOU?

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- Revelation 12
  - And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
  - And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.
  - 11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

### *Bible Dictionary – “War in Heaven”*

This term arises out of Rev. 12:7 and refers to the conflict that took place in the premortal existence among the spirit children of God. The war was primarily over how and in what manner the plan of salvation would be administered to the forthcoming human family upon the earth. The issues involved such things as agency, how to gain salvation, and who should be the Redeemer. The war broke out because one-third of the spirits refused to accept the appointment of Jesus Christ as the Savior. Such a refusal was a rebellion against the Father's plan of redemption. *It was evident that if given agency, some persons would fall short of complete salvation; Lucifer and his followers wanted salvation to come automatically to all who passed through mortality, without regard to individual preference, agency, or voluntary dedication* (see Isa. 14:12–20; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:4–13; D&C 29:36–38; Moses 4:1–4). The spirits who thus rebelled and persisted were thrust out of heaven and cast down to the earth without mortal bodies, “and thus came the devil and his angels” (D&C 29:37; see also Rev. 12:9; Abr. 3:24–28). The warfare is continued in mortality in the conflict between right and wrong, between the gospel and false principles, etc. The same contestants and the same issues are doing battle, and the same salvation is at stake.



# President Harold B Lee on Satan's Rebellion

Ensign July 1972

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One of the ambitious sons of God's spiritual creations in the premortal world promised salvation for all mankind without effort on their part, provided he would be given almighty power, even to the dethroning of God.

## Elder Dallin H. Oaks

In his proposed modification, Lucifer pretended to seek the same outcome [immortality and eternal life], but he would use a different means. He would save *all* the spirit children of God by eliminating the possibility of sin. He would assure that result by removing their power to choose.

*(The Lord's Way, preface)*



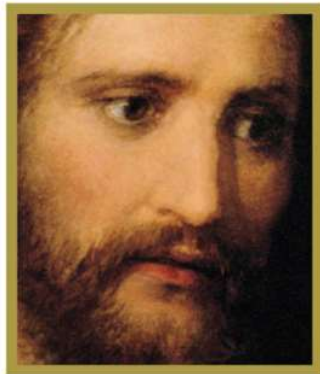
Elder Bruce  
R. McConkie

**Lucifer sought to dethrone God, to sit himself on the divine throne, and to save *all* men with out reference to their works. He sought to deny men their agency so they could not sin. He offered a mortal life of carnality and sensuality, of evil and crime and murder, following which *all* men would be saved. His offer was a philosophical impossibility. There must be opposition in all things.**

The Millennial Messiah, 666-667

# THE DIVINE GIFT

— OF —



# FORGIVENESS

NEIL L. ANDERSEN

Lucifer rejected the plan of the Father and offered instead a devious plot to unconditionally save us. . . . With him claiming all the credit. . . . He wanted nothing to do with laws, commandments, obedience or accountability and without these, there could be no agency.

Page 60

# The false doctrine of the Anti-Christ in the Book of Mormon

Nehor. "...all men will be saved...all men will have eternal life." (Alma 1)

Korihor. "...no atonement made for the sins of men...whatsoever a man did was no crime." (Alma 30)

**NO SIN – NO SAVIOR**

**NO ACCOUNTABILITY – NO ATONEMENT – NO AGENCY**

**This was what Satan proposed.  
No wonder 1/3 followed him!**

There was a war in heaven,  
and it was fought not only because there  
*was* opposition,  
but we fought  
*for* opposition!!!  
There will always  
*be* opposition.  
It is an eternal LAW.  
(2 Nephi 2:11)

## TWO MAIN IDEAS from last week

- If we could get a glimpse of how our Heavenly Parents see us it would immediately change how we see ourselves and everything else.
- We were valiant and victorious in fighting a war premortally. We win mortal battles in the same way here as we did there—through the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony, and love not our lives to the death.



President Ezra Taft  
Benson  
1985—1994

***“Just as man does not really desire food until he is hungry, so he does not desire the salvation of Christ until he knows why he needs Christ. No one adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ until he understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind.”***

(Teachings of President Benson, 28)





April 2015

...The simple truth is that we *cannot* fully comprehend the Atonement and Resurrection of Christ and we *will not* adequately appreciate the unique purpose of His birth or His death—in other words, there is no way to truly celebrate Christmas *or* Easter—without understanding that there was an actual Adam and Eve who fell from an actual Eden, with all the consequences that fall carried with it.



October 2017

I know we are His spiritual sons and daughters with divine potential to become as He is. I also know that, as children of God, we should not demean or vilify ourselves, as if beating up on ourselves is somehow going to make us the person God wants us to become. . . That is *not* what the Lord wants for Primary children or anyone else who honestly sings, “I’m trying to be like Jesus.”

To put this issue in context, may I remind all of us that we live in a fallen world and for now we are a fallen people. We are in the *telectial* kingdom; that is spelled with a *t*, not a *c*. As President Russell M. Nelson has taught, here in mortality perfection is still “pending.”

*"I'm trying to be like Jesus;  
But falling along the way  
I struggle to live as He did,  
in all that I do and say.  
But though I may falter  
and make a wrong choice,  
I find hope in forgiveness  
as the still small voice whispers:*

*"Trust in the Savior, and know this is true,  
His grace is sufficient for mortals like you  
His love is still constant, repent and fear not,  
For these are the things Jesus taught."*

Tucker Boyle



President Boyd K. Packer,  
October 2012 Conference

It was understood  
from the beginning  
that in mortality we  
would fall short . . . It  
was not expected that  
we would live without  
transgressing one law  
or another.

**Romans 3:23**

**For all have sinned, and come short  
of the glory of God.**

**1 John 1:8**

**If we say that we have no sin, we  
deceive ourselves, and the truth is not  
in us.**

# **Scriptural Examples of The Fall**

**Ether 3:2**

**Mosiah 4:2-3,5,11**

**Alma 38:14**

**2 Nephi 4:17-18**

# ***The Fall of All***

A Scripture Chain

**1 Nephi 10: 5-6**

**Mosiah 16: 3-4**

**Mosiah 27: 25**

**Alma 12: 22**

**Alma 34: 9**

**Alma 42: 6, 9-10, 14**

## *Understanding and Appreciating Our Humanness*

- Is Nephi, the Brother of Jared, and King Benjamin serious about their description of being “wretched” (2 Nephi 4:17), naturally evil (Ether 3:2); worthless and unworthy (Mosiah 4:5,11)? In each of those accounts note how close and dependent they are to Christ. The nearer we get to Christ the more wretched and wonderful, evil and righteous, worthless and intrinsically valuable we feel. As we better understand the Fall of All, the more humble and meek we become
- We are totally, completely, and absolutely dependent upon Jesus Christ for our salvation and redemption.
- The great test of mortality—overcoming the flesh through the Atonement of Christ (Bednar)
- The difference between “naturally evil,” and “inherently righteous.” (Holland) Which wolf do you feed?
- Understanding the Fall will help us to be more patient , kind, gentle, and merciful to ourselves and others.
- Why is Redeemed Humanity greater than Unfallen Humanity could or would have ever been. (CS Lewis)



## President Brigham Young

**Do not suppose that we shall ever in the flesh be free from temptations to sin. Some suppose that they can in the flesh be sanctified body and spirit and become so pure that they will never again feel the effects of the power of the adversary of truth. Were it possible for a person to attain to this degree of perfection in the flesh, he could not die neither remain in a world where sin predominates. . . . I think we should more or less feel the effects of sin so long as we live, and finally have to pass the ordeals of death.**

Journal of Discourses 10:173

Elder Bednar, April 2013 General Conference

*The precise nature of the test of mortality, then, can be summarized in the following question: Will I respond to the inclinations of the natural man, or will I yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and put off the natural man and become a saint through the Atonement of Christ the Lord? That is the test. Every appetite, desire, propensity, and impulse of the natural man may be overcome by and through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. We are here on the earth to develop godlike qualities and to bridle all of the passions of the flesh.*

## Elder Jeffery R. Holland

Because this doctrine [of the Fall] is so basic to the plan of salvation and also because it is so susceptible to misunderstanding, we must note that these references to "**natural**" evil emphatically do not mean that men and women are "**inherently**" evil. There is a crucial difference. As spirit sons and daughters of God, all mortal men and women are divine in origin and divine in their potential destiny. . . . But it is also true that as a result of the Fall they are now in a "natural" (fallen) world where the devil "taketh away light" and where some elements of nature—including temporal human nature—need discipline, restraint, and refinement.

Christ and the New Covenant, p.207

Stephen Robinson

**I know people in the Church who beat themselves up for having fallen natures, who take it as a sign that they are not worthy of the kingdom. For these spiritual masochists it isn't enough to control their carnal nature or to begin diminishing its influence by developing habitual obedience to God – they don't even want to have a carnal nature. . . . In mortality, resisting the urges of our carnal thoughts and putting them out of our minds is a reasonable goal and expectation. But not ever having a carnal thought is an unreasonable goal and expectation.**

Following Christ, p. 62

*“God is not merely mending, not simply restoring a status quo. Redeemed humanity is to be something more glorious than unfallen humanity would have ever been.”*

(C.S. Lewis Miracles, p. 162)

**How so ???**

# **MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE SCRIPTURE CHAIN:**

## **The Merits of Christ**

**2 Nephi 2:3-4, 6-8**

**2 Nephi 31:19**

**Mosiah 2:20-24**

**Alma 22:13-14**

**Alma 24:10-11**

**Helaman 14:13**

**Moroni 6:4**

## The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and the plan of salvation:

The Man who comes down from Jerusalem is Fallen Man—us. Jericho is the lowest city, in altitude, in the world (846 ft. below sea level).

The Thieves represent the wicked world we live in and the injustices of life.

The Priest represents the Law of Moses

The Levite represents the lesser priesthood

The Good Samaritan is Jesus Christ

The Inn and host is Christ's Church

See: John Welch, BYU Studies 38:2; Ensign Feb. 2007

**Because we live in a fallen, telestial world  
it is irrational and irresponsible to  
expect any human to live a sinless life,  
including yourself.**

**Wickedness never was happiness!  
However, unhappiness may sometimes  
be the result of not understanding  
our fallen nature, which may  
produce unrealistic expectations  
of righteousness.**



# “The Fortunate Fall”

Elder Holland, “Where Justice, Love, and Mercy  
Meet”, April 2015 General Conference.

Elder B. H. Roberts, *Seventy's Course in Theology*, 4:87

## The Helplessness of Man in the Presence of Broken Law:

*. . . How can satisfaction be made to justice in order that redemption may reach fallen man? Admittedly man, the transgressor of law, is powerless to make such satisfaction. True, it is conceivable that he might, through struggle, maintain himself in righteousness for the future. But that does not reach the past. If he should by struggle maintain himself in righteousness for the future, that is no more than he ought to do. Man owes that duty every day in the present and in the future.*


**Elder Roberts (cont.)**

***It is the breach in the law that must be mended. Man is under the sentence of eternal death, spiritual and temporal, for a past transgression of the law of God. Doing what is merely his duty in the present and the future will not make satisfaction for the past. Man is helpless in the presence of that broken law; no act of his can atone for the transgression of Adam or stay the effects of the fall upon the race, or redeem them from the penalty of death.***

*Salvation comes by redemption,  
not by assimilation.*

Jesus did more than set an example; he did more than teach ethics, [or a standard and system of living]. With his suffering and his blood, he paid a debt to fulfill the demands of a broken law. He redeemed all living things. ***The gospel is a law of redemption from sin and death, not just the assimilation of good habits.***

- Robert J. Matthews, CES Symposium



The gospel is NOT the assimilation of good habits or the accumulation of good deeds.

The gospel is the redemption of the soul made possible by believing in and following the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Perfectionism  
Meritocracy

## Two Deadly Plaques in the Church

**Both are the result of not understanding or misunderstanding the doctrine of the Fall and the doctrine of Christ's Atonement.**

**MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE  
SCRIPTURE CHAIN:**

**The Merits of Christ**

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**Moroni 6:4**

**Keeping the [commandments] doesn't earn you heavenly merits and breaking the [commandments] doesn't earn you hellish demerits. Both merits and demerits are about you. The purpose of the [gospel] is to point you away from yourself, free you from the self-obsessed burden of your own story, and center you on Christ. You don't need to generate merit in order to be saved, you need instead to come unto Christ and "rely wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save" (2 Nephi 31:19). [Redemption] points wholly to Christ and his grace. [Living the gospel] is the work of relying on Christ's merits, not the work of generating your own. This is still hard work, but it is work of an entirely different kind.**

Excerpt from Adam S. Miller, Letters to a Young Mormon, 17-23.



Given the magnitude of the gift of grace, we would never suppose, even with all the good we could possibly do in this life, that we had *earned* it. It is just too great. [Quotes 2 Nephi 25:23]

... There is something we can do, something that all who are accountable must do. To have effect, the gift must be accepted. [Quotes D&C 88:33]

Thus, it is not that we *earn* these gifts, but rather that we choose to seek and accept justification [forgiveness] and sanctification [holiness]. ...One must choose Christ to receive what Christ offers.

Elder Christoffreson, Ensign, June 2001



(“The Gift of Grace,”  
April 2015 Gen. Conf.)

**We cannot earn our way into heaven;  
the demands of justice stand as a  
barrier, which we are powerless to  
overcome on our own.**

**But all is not lost. The grace of God is  
our great and everlasting hope.**

**Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,  
the plan of mercy appeases the  
demands of justice.**

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