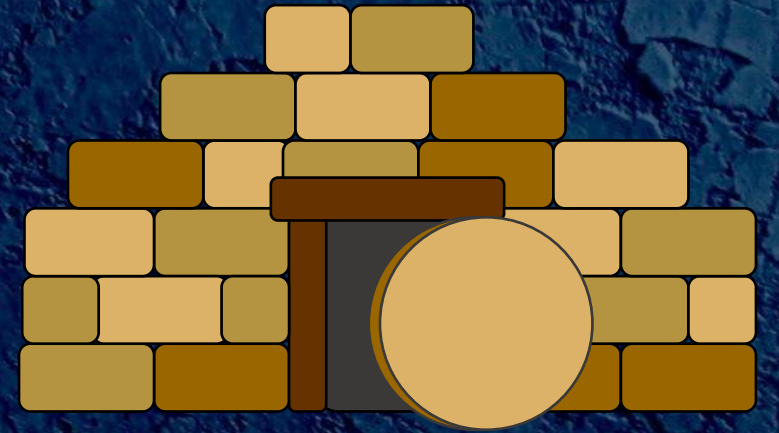
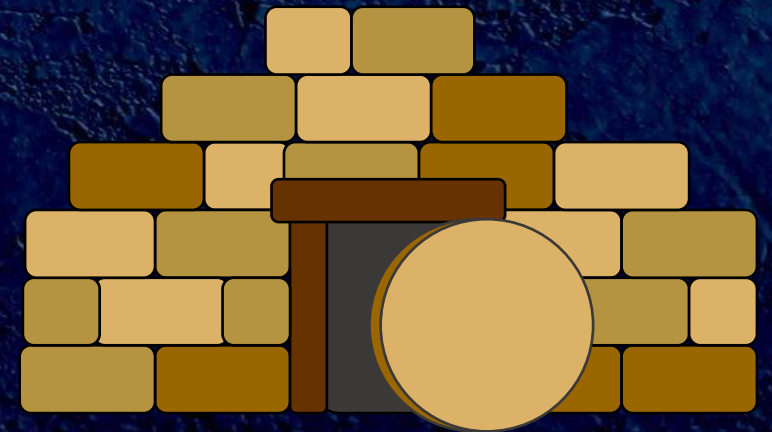


Alma 40-42



Resurrection: Life After Death Alma 40



Relax and concentrate on the 4 small dots in the middle of the picture for about 30 seconds. Then look at the next slide.



You will see a circle of light developing. Start blinking your eyes a couple of times and you will see a figure emerging.

Resurrection

What makes it possible for us to live after we die?
Who will be resurrected?

There was no resurrection from the dead in history until Christ's death



All men who had mortal bodies shall rise from the dead in resurrection



Because of
Jesus Christ,
all mankind
will be
resurrected

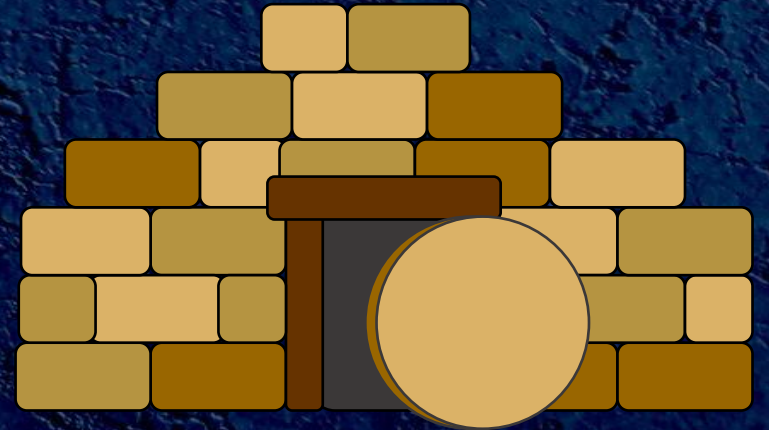
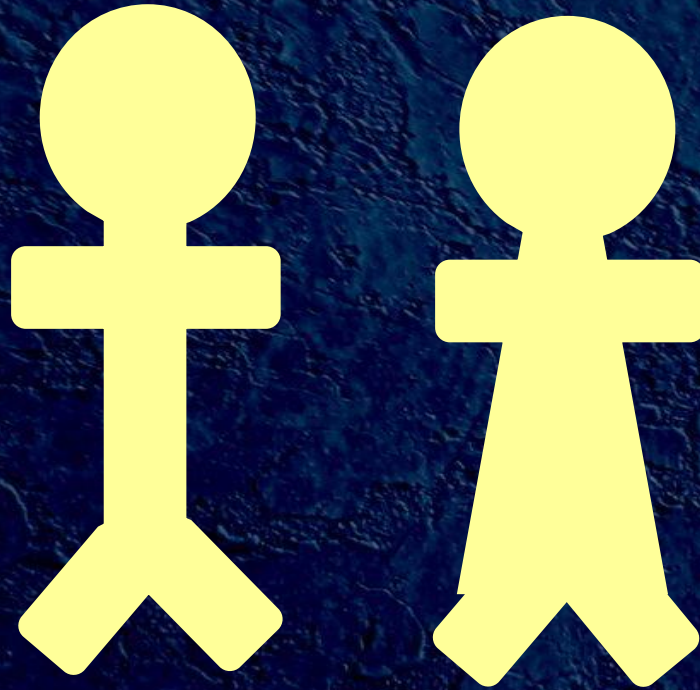
*"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death by man came also the resurrection of the dead."
1 Corinthians 15:20-21*

Mortal~~Immortality

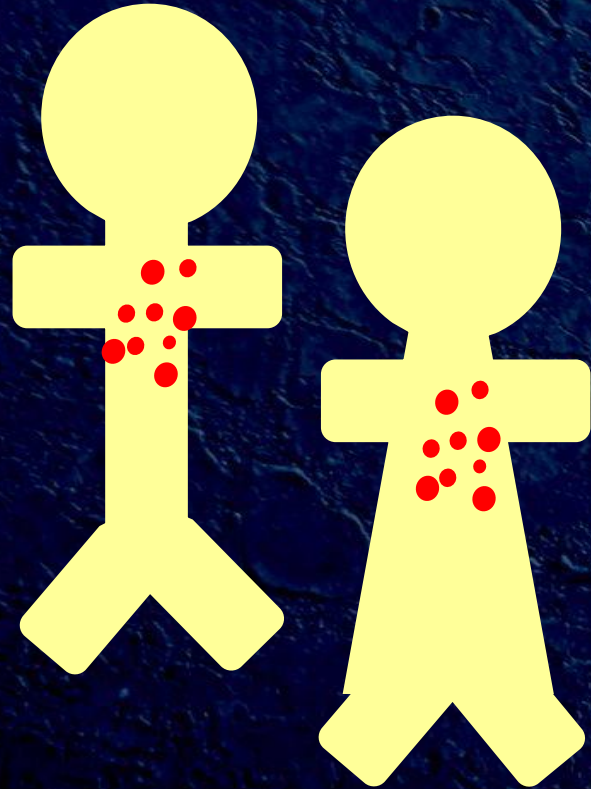


This physical body, subject to death, does not become immortal—no longer subject to death—until after Christ rises from the grave.

JFM and RLM



CORRUPTION--INCORRUPTION



The physical body, subject to disease and decay, does not become incorrupt—no longer subject to those conditions—until after Christ rises from the grave.

JFM and RLM

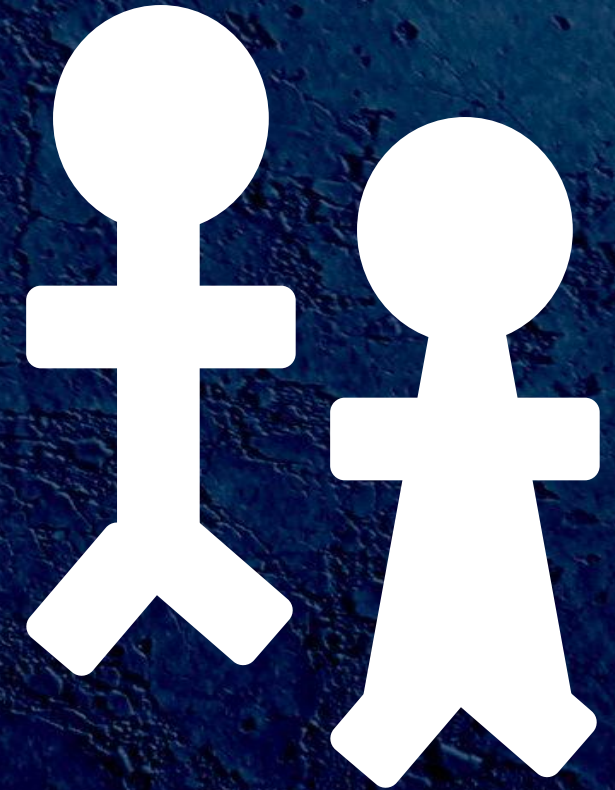


“Every living being will be resurrected. *‘As Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.’*”

Those who live and die before the millennial era, all in their proper order, will have their bodies and spirits reunited in resurrected immortality.

The righteous who live after the Second Coming shall be changed from mortality to immortality in the twinkling of an eye, their bodies and spirits being united inseparably.”

Bruce R. McConkie



Life After Death

Where will we go when we die?
What is it like there?



“All spirits of men after death return to the spirit world...

The righteous—*meaning those who have been baptized and who have been faithful*—are gathered in one part and all the others in another part of the spirit world.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



The faithful

Received into paradise—a state of Happiness, Rest, and Peace

“When our spirits leave these bodies, will they be happy? Not perfectly so.

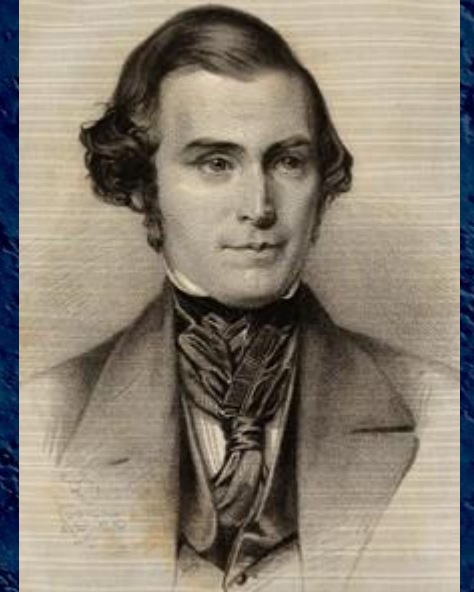
Why? Because the spirit is absent from the body; it cannot be perfectly happy while a part of the man is lying in the earth.

How can the happiness be complete when only part of the redemption is accomplished?

You cannot be perfectly happy until you get to a new house...

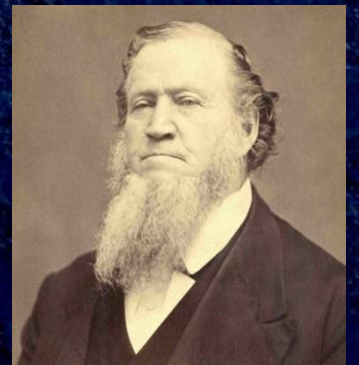
All the holy men that have lived in days of old, have looked forward to the resurrection of their bodies; for then their glory will be complete.”

Elder Orson Pratt





“Where is the spirit world? It is right here. ... Do they [the spirits of those who have died] go beyond the boundaries of the organized earth? **No, they do not.** They are brought forth upon this earth.”
Brigham Young



Eternal Compass

Alma does not know the appointed times of the resurrection because:



“...all is as one day with God, and time only is measured unto men.”

“Where God dwells, all things ‘are manifest, past, present, and future and are continually before the Lord’” D&C 130:7

The duration of the circumstances in which God resides and by which He is encompassed is eternal, infinite, and unlimited. It will never have an end.

Hebrews 1:12—Student Manuel

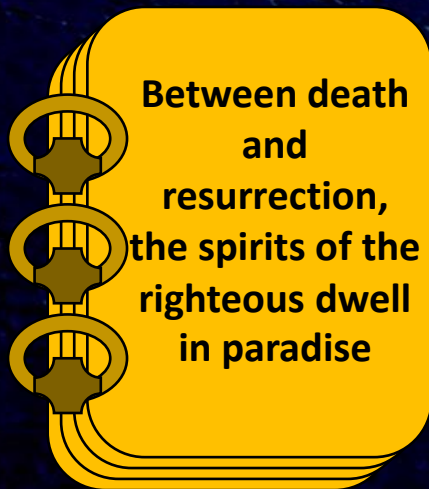


Paradise

Taken home = Not to the presence of Heavenly Father, but to an 'in between place' called Paradise.



*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.
Ecclesiastes 12:7*



“The mortal existence has come to an end, and returned to the spirit world, where they are assigned to a place according to their works with the just or with the unjust, there to await the resurrection.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



Commissioned to Carry the Message of Salvation

Those spirits who have not been righteous are received into a “spirit prison” where they remain until their punishment for sin has been completed.

Student Manual



“Before Christ bridged the gulf between paradise and hell—so that the righteous could mingle with the wicked and preach them the gospel—the wicked in hell were confined to locations which precluded them from contact with the righteous in paradise...”

SPIRIT PRISON

Alma used the phrase “outer darkness,” he did not refer to the final state of Satan and those who are damned.

He referred to the state of the wicked between the time of their death and the time of their resurrection.

Today, we usually refer to this state as spirit prison.





Repentance Opens the Prison Doors

“...Now that the righteous spirits in paradise have been commissioned to carry the message of salvation to the wicked spirits in hell, there is a certain amount of mingling together of the good and bad spirits. Repentance opens the prison doors to the spirits in hell; it enables those bound with the chains of hell to free themselves from darkness, unbelief, ignorance, and sin.



“...As rapidly as they can overcome these obstacles—gain light, believe truth, acquire intelligence, cast off sin, and break the chains of hell—they can leave the hell that imprisons them and dwell with the righteous in the peace of paradise.”

Bruce R. McConkie

What is Resurrection?

All things restored to their proper and perfect frame




The reuniting of the spirit body with the physical body of flesh and bones after death.

After resurrection, the spirit and body will never again be separated, and the person will become immortal. Every person born on earth will be resurrected because Jesus Christ overcame death (1 Cor. 15:20–22).

“Resurrection makes it possible for a person’s spirit and body to be united again, only this time that body will be immortal and perfect— not subject to pain, disease, or other problems...



Resurrection is the reuniting of the spirit and the body, with all things restored to their proper and perfect frame



“Each of us has physical, mental, and emotional limitations and weaknesses.

... None of these problems will plague us after we are resurrected. . . .

“... [Jesus Christ] can make us whole no matter what is broken in us.”

Paul V. Johnson

Stages of Resurrection



A general resurrection---At the time Christ arose from the dead—of the righteous.

Matthew 28:52-53

1st Resurrection—a resurrection of the righteous at the Second Coming of Christ—The first to us.



“The graves will be opened and the just shall come forth to reign with him on the earth for a thousand years”
Joseph Fielding Smith



See also: D&C 88:97-98



Another Resurrection

Those who have met with Christ and descended upon the earth...

“There will come to pass another resurrection.

This may be considered as a part of the first, although it comes later.

In this resurrection will come forth those of the terrestrial order, who were not worthy to be caught up to meet him, but who are worthy to come forth to enjoy the millennial reign...”

Joseph Fielding Smith





1st Resurrection

Those coming forth in the morning of this resurrection do so with celestial bodies and shall inherit a celestial glory; these are they who are Christ's the firstfruits.

Those coming forth in the afternoon of this resurrection do so with terrestrial bodies and consequently shall inherit that kingdom; they are described as being Christ's at this coming.

All who have been resurrected so far have received celestial bodies; the coming forth of terrestrial beings does not commence until after the Second Coming.

Bruce R. McConkie



Those Not Resurrected—at this time



“All liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers and all who love and make a lie, shall not receive the resurrection at this time, but for a thousand years shall be thrust down into hell where they shall suffer the wrath of God until they pay the price of their sinning, if it is possible, by the things which they shall suffer...”

These are the ‘spirits of men who are to be judged, and are found under condemnation; and these are the rest of the dead; and they live not again until the thousand years are ended, neither again, until the end of the earth’ (D&C 88:100-101)

Joseph Fielding Smith



Death Pronounced Upon the Wicked

“But behold, an awful death cometh upon the wicked; for they die as to things pertaining to things of righteousness; for they are unclean, and no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of God; but they are cast out, and consigned to partake of the fruits of their labors or their works, which have been evil; and they drink the dregs of a bitter cup.”



The 2nd Death—The sons of perdition
Judged out of Book of Life

Cast into the lake of fire

No place for them in heaven
Revelation 20:12-15

The Finale

What will we do after we are resurrected?

“Here, then, is eternal life...to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you...”

Joseph Smith



“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Revelation 14:13



And then shall the righteous shine
forth in the kingdom of God.

Sources:

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 295

Bruce R. McConkie *Mormon Doctrine* pg. 638, 755; *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* [1965], 1:196

Student Manual Book of Mormon Religion 121-122 pg. 320

Joseph Fielding Smith *Doctrines of Salvation* 2:230, 2:295-97; *Answers to Gospel Questions*, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr. [1958], 2:85

Elder Orson Pratt...quoted from Student Manual Religion 121-122 (JD; 1:289-90)

Brigham Young (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1954], 376).

Joseph Smith *Teachings* pg. 346-47

Paul V. Johnson, "And There Shall Be No More Death," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2016, 121–22, 123

What happens to spirits in the spirit world? Alma 40:11-15

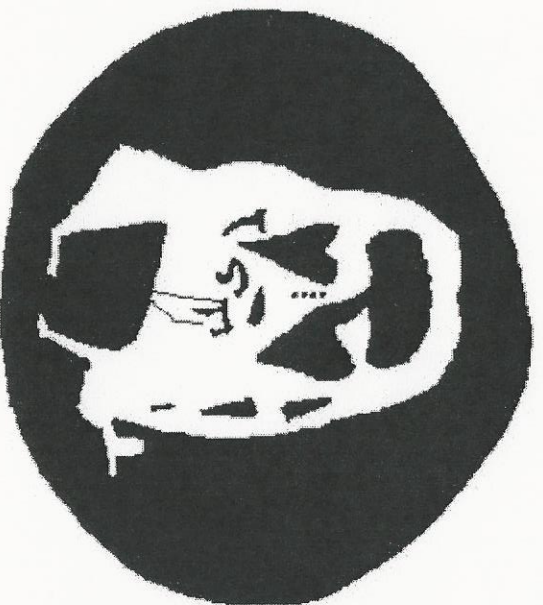
“When the physical body dies, the spirit continues to live. In the spirit world, the spirits of the righteous ‘are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow’ (Alma 40:12). A place called spirit prison is reserved for ‘those who [have] died in their sins, without a knowledge of the truth, or in transgression, having rejected the prophets’ (D&C 138:32). The spirits in prison are ‘taught faith in God, repentance from sin, vicarious baptism for the remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and all other principles of the gospel that [are] necessary for them to know’ (D&C 138:33–34). If they accept the principles of the gospel, repent of their sins, and accept ordinances performed in their behalf in temples, they will be welcomed into paradise” (*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 46–47).

Outer darkness

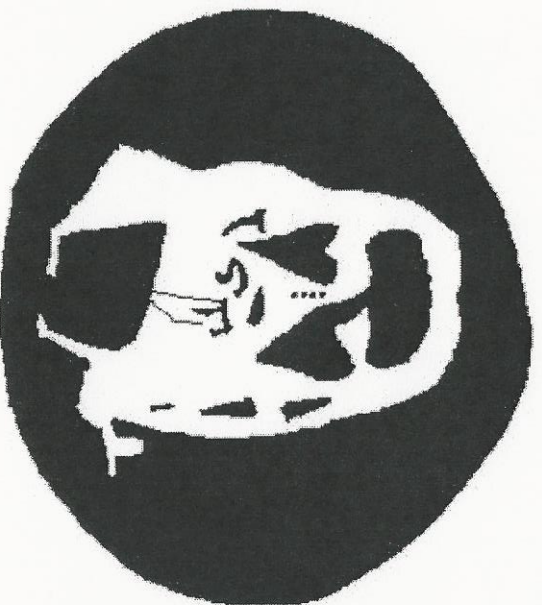
When Alma used the phrase “outer darkness,” he referred to the temporary place in the postmortal spirit world in which the wicked will wait for the resurrection (see Alma 40:13–14). Other prophets have referred to this place as a prison (see 1 Peter 3:18–20; D&C 76:73;138:28–42).

The Spirit World:

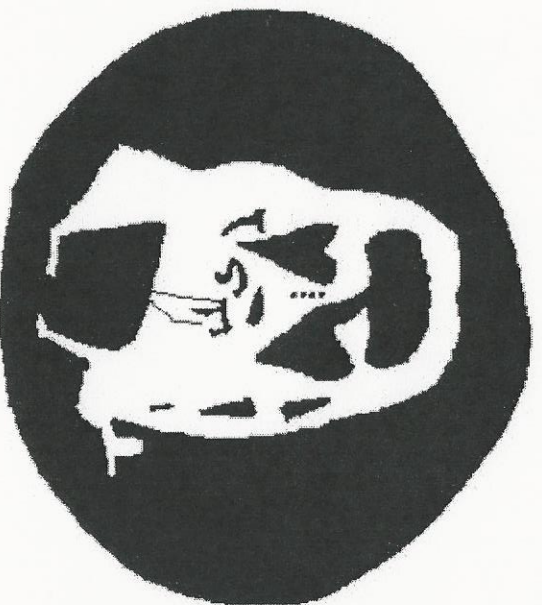
We know from the scriptures that after our bodies die we continue to live as spirits in the spirit world. The scriptures also teach that this spirit world is divided between those who have been “righteous” or “just” during life and those who have been wicked. They also describe how some faithful spirits teach the gospel to those who have been wicked or rebellious (see 1 Peter 3:19; Doctrine and Covenants 138:19–20, 29, 32, 37). (Dallin H. Oaks, “Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 26)



Relax and concentrate on the 4 small dots in the middle of the picture for about 30-40 seconds. Then look at a plan colored wall near you. You will see a circle of light developing. Start blinking your eyes a couple of times and you will see a figure emerging. What, or rather WHOM do you see?



Relax and concentrate on the 4 small dots in the middle of the picture for about 30-40 seconds. Then look at a plan colored wall near you. You will see a circle of light developing. Start blinking your eyes a couple of times and you will see a figure emerging. What, or rather WHOM do you see?



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Wickedness Never Was Happiness

Alma 41



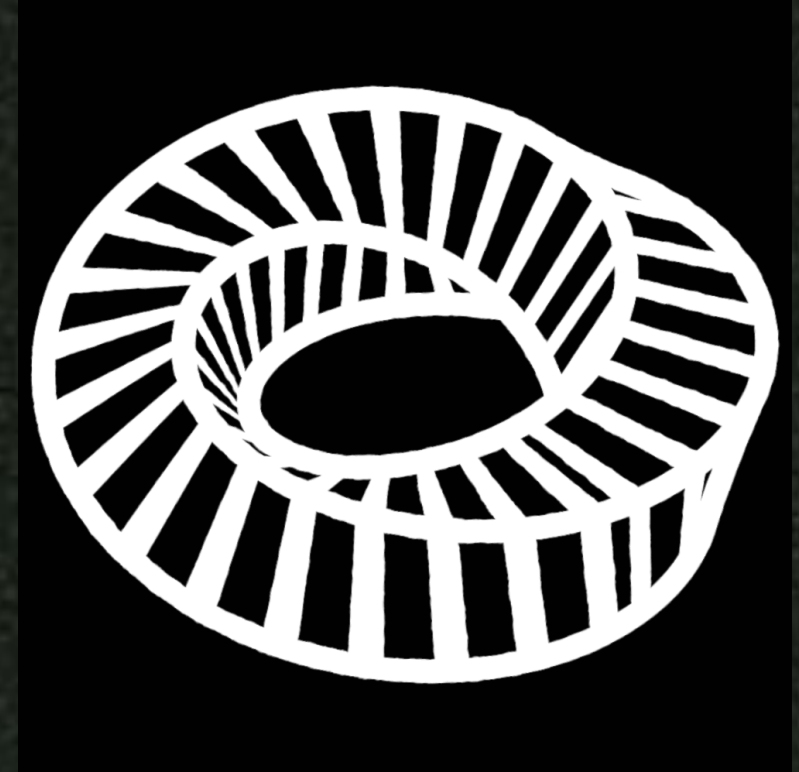
Gone Far Astray



Corianton was burdened with sin:

He was offended of the idea that a merciful God would punish the sinner.

He tended to excuse his actions by **wresting** the scriptures.



Wrested—twisted or distort the scriptures for justification

Plan of Restoration

Requisite—Required or necessary

Spiritual

*The soul of a man should
be restored to its body*



Physical

*Every part of the body should
be restored to itself*



Bring back or to put back
into former state

Choosing to Live:

Celestial Law → Celestial resurrection

Terrestrial standard → Terrestrial resurrection

Telestial standard → Telestial resurrection

Sons of Perdition → In a resurrection of their own



Resurrection

**Morning of 1st
Resurrection**

**Inseparably united
with Celestial
bodies**



**Afternoon of the 1st
Resurrection**

**Eternally united
with Terrestrial
bodies**



**Morning of 2nd
Resurrection**

**Resurrection of the
unjust
Endlessly bound
with telestial
bodies**



**Those even in the
resurrection who
are filthy still**

**The sons of
perdition will be
called forth**



D&C 88:

29 Ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory shall then receive of the same, even a fulness.



30 And they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory shall then receive of the same, even a fulness.



31 And also they who are quickened by a portion of the telestial glory shall then receive of the same, even a fulness.

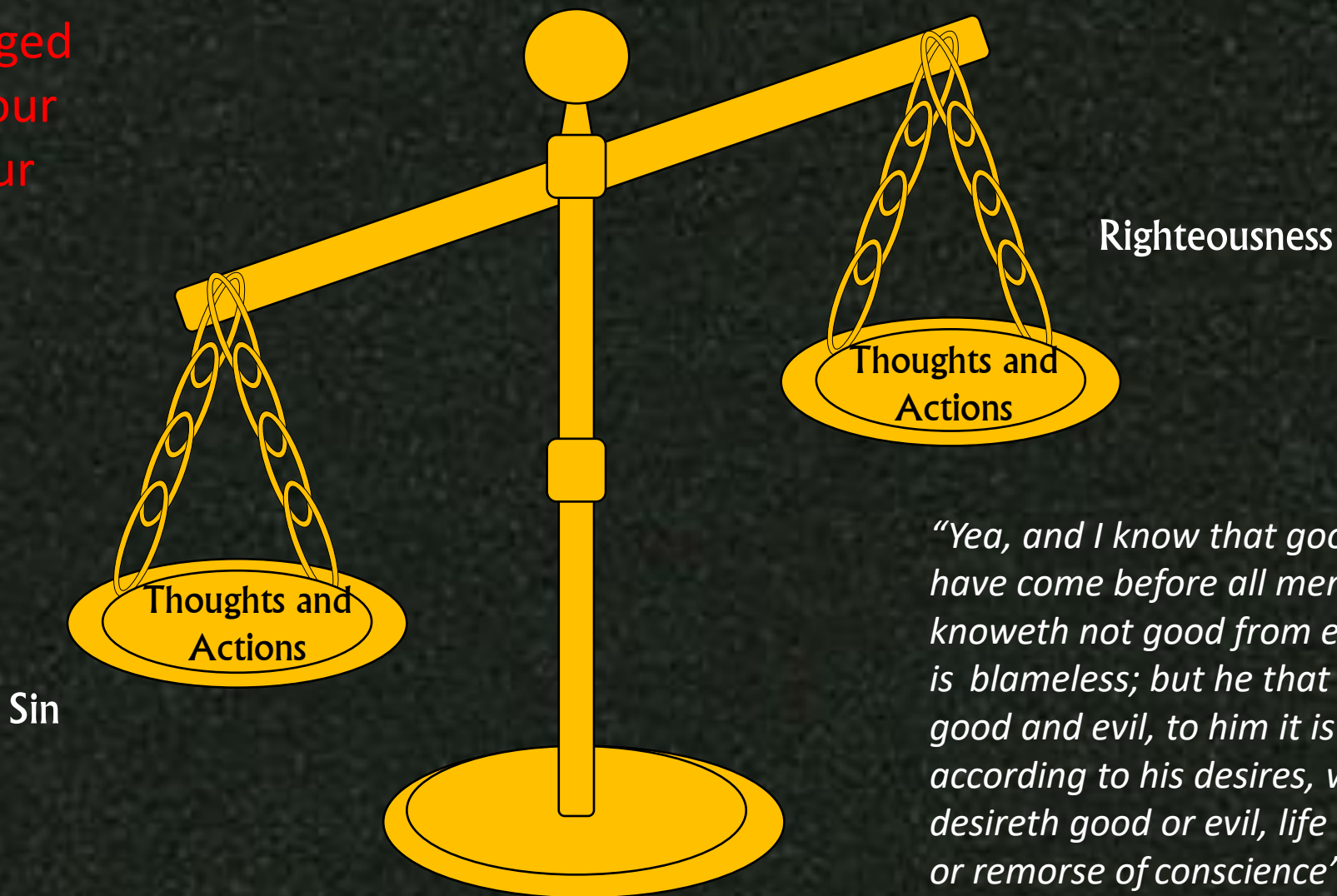


32 And they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received.



Happiness or Misery

We will be judged
according to our
works and our
desires



*“Yea, and I know that good and evil have come before all men; he that knoweth not good from evil is blameless; but he that knoweth good and evil, to him it is given according to his desires, whether he desireth good or evil, life or death, joy or remorse of conscience”
Alma 29:5*

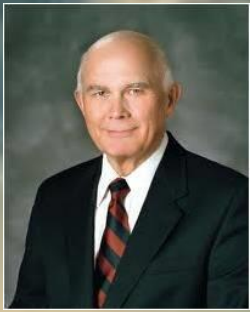
Desires



If our desires and actions are good in this life, then we will be restored to that which is good after this life

If our desires and actions are evil in this life, then we will receive a reward of evil after this life





“Just as we will be accountable for our evil desires, we will also be rewarded for our righteous ones...”

This principle means that when we have done all that we can, our desires will carry us the rest of the way.

It also means that if our desires are right, we can be forgiven for the unintended errors or mistakes we will inevitably make as we try to carry those desires into effect.

**What a comfort for our feeling of inadequacy!”
Dallin H. Oaks**



Who Are Our Judges?

“...the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22).



Our choices in mortality determine the kind of judgment we will receive when we stand before God



The Son, in turn, will call upon others to assist in the Judgment. The Twelve who were with Him in His ministry will judge the twelve tribes of Israel (see Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

The twelve Nephite disciples will judge the Nephite and Lamanite people (see 1 Nephi 12:9–10; Mormon 3:18–19).

Us today? –we will be judged by the apostles who are alive during our time on earth—bishops and stake presidents. (D&C 107:68-84 and 58:13-23)

Doctrinal Mastery

Alma 41:10



“Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness.”

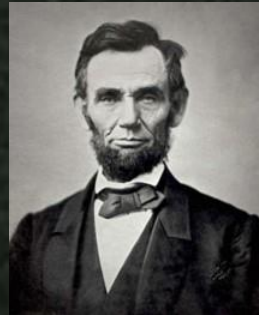
Wickedness Never Was Happiness

“When I do good I feel good,
when I do bad I feel bad.”

Abraham Lincoln

Happiness is the object and design
of our existence: and will be the
end thereof; if we pursue the path
that leads to it; and this path is
virtue, uprightness, faithfulness,
holiness, and keeping all the
commandments of God.”

Joseph Smith



“You can not do wrong and
feel right. It is impossible”

Ezra T. Benson

“...so many of us are fearful of what
our peers will say, that we will be
looked upon with disdain and
criticized if we stand for what is
right...Happiness lies in the power
and the love and the sweet simplicity
of the gospel of Jesus Christ...”

Gordon B. Hinckley



“Activities always forbidden by the Lord and for many years frowned upon by society are now accepted and promoted by that same society. The media serves up these activities in such a fashion as to make them look very desirable.

Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness.

“... The commandments you observe were not given by a dispassionate God to prevent you from having fun, but by a loving Father in Heaven who wants you to be happy while you are living on this earth as well as in the hereafter”

Elder Glenn L. Pace



Nature of God

1. "In a carnal state"

a. Limited and burdened by our sins

2. "In the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity"

b. Lacking the blessings and direction of God; the loss of the companionship of the Holy Ghost

3. "Without God in the world"

c. Ruled by the will of the flesh



*We will be restored to either
happiness or misery according to our
works and desires in mortality*

“The essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ entails a fundamental and permanent change in our very nature made possible through our reliance upon ‘the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah’ (2 Nephi 2:8). As we choose to follow the Master, we choose to be changed—to be spiritually reborn”

David A. Bednar



Alma's Advise to Corianton



“Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again.”



The Boomerang

What happens when you throw a boomerang correctly?



That which
we send out
shall return
unto us on
the Day of
Judgment

“For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored; therefore, the word restoration more fully condemneth the sinner, and justifieth him not at all.”

Sources:

Dallin H. Oaks *Pure in Heart* pg. 59

Bruce R. McConkie *Millennial Messiah* pg. 520

Ezra Taft Benson *New Era* June 1986

Joseph Smith (*History of the Church* 5: 134-135)

Gordon B. Hinckley *Ensign* May 1997

Elder Glenn L. Pace (“They’re Not Really Happy,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 39–40).

David A. Bednar (“Ye Must Be Born Again,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2007, 20).

Twisted Art Work by Richard Deacon, *Restless*

Couldn't resist this image



“Many people try to find happiness and fulfillment in activities that are contrary to the Lord’s commandments. Ignoring God’s plan for them, they reject the only source of real happiness. They give in to the devil, who ‘seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself’ (2 Nephi 2:27). Eventually they learn the truth of Alma’s warning to his son Corianton: ‘Wickedness never was happiness’ (Alma 41:10). ...

“As you seek to be happy, remember that the only way to real happiness is to live the gospel. You will find peaceful, eternal happiness as you strive to keep the commandments, pray for strength, repent of your sins, participate in wholesome activities, and give meaningful service. You will learn to have fun within the limits set by a loving Father in Heaven” (*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 79–80).

“We live in an age when, as the Lord foretold, men’s hearts are failing them, not only physically but in spirit. (See D&C 45:26.) Many are giving up heart for the battle of life. Suicide ranks as a major cause of the deaths to college students. As the showdown between good and evil approaches with its accompanying trials and tribulations, Satan is increasingly striving to overcome the Saints with despair, discouragement, despondency, and depression...Sin pulls a man down into despondency and despair. While a man may take some temporary pleasure in sin, the end result is unhappiness....Sin creates disharmony with God and is depressing to the spirit. Therefore, a man would do well to examine himself to see that he is in harmony with all of God’s laws. Every law kept brings a particular blessing. Every law broken brings a particular blight. Those who are heavy laden with despair should come unto the Lord, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light (See Matt. 11:28-30)

Ezra Taft Benson in CR Oct. 1974 pp. 90-91)

President David O. McKay taught that we have a dual nature and the ability to choose happiness through self-mastery:

“Living a life of truth and moral purity brings joy and happiness, while violations of moral and social laws result only in dissatisfaction, sorrow, and, when carried to extreme, in degradation.

“Man has a dual nature—one, related to the earthly or animal life; the other, the spiritual life, akin to the divine. Man’s body is but the tabernacle in which his spirit dwells. Too many, far too many, are prone to regard the body as the man and, consequently, to direct their efforts to the gratifying of the body’s pleasures, its appetites, its desires, its passions. Too few recognize that the real man is an immortal spirit, which ‘intelligence or light of truth’ was animated as an individual entity before the body was begotten, and that this spiritual entity, with all its distinguishing traits, will continue after the body ceases to respond to its earthly environment.

“Whether a man remains satisfied within what we designate the animal world, satisfied with what the animal world will give him, yielding without effort to the whim of his appetites and passions, and slipping further and further into the realm of indulgence, or whether, through self-mastery, he rises toward intellectual, moral, and spiritual enjoyments depends upon the kind of choice he makes every day—nay, every hour of his life” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1967, 6–7).

Wickedness Never Was Happiness Alma 41:10:

“If we look to the world and follow its formulas for happiness, we will never know joy. The unrighteous may experience any number of emotions and sensations, but they will never experience joy! Joy is a gift for the faithful [see 2 Nephi 9:18]. It is the gift that comes from intentionally trying to live a righteous life, as taught by Jesus Christ [for examples, see 2 Nephi 27:30; Alma 27:16–18]” (Russell M. Nelson, “Joy and Spiritual Survival,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 84).

Obedience is Liberty Alma 41:10:

“God reveals to His prophets that there are moral absolutes. Sin will always be sin. Disobedience to the Lord’s commandments will always deprive us of His blessings. The world changes constantly and dramatically, but God, His commandments, and promised blessings do not change. They are immutable and unchanging. Men and women receive their agency as a gift from God, but their liberty and, in turn, their eternal happiness come from obedience to His laws. As Alma counseled his errant son Corianton, ‘Wickedness never was happiness’ (Alma 41:10)” (L. Tom Perry, “Obedience to Law Is Liberty,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2013, 88).

As another part of God’s **“plan of restoration”** (Alma 41:2), the Resurrection will restore “all things ... to their proper and perfect frame” (Alma 40:23). This includes the perfection of all of our *physical* deficiencies and deformities acquired in mortality, including at birth or by trauma or disease. (Dallin H. Oaks, “Cleansed by Repentance,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2019, 94)

Justice and Mercy

Alma 42



Excuses

A young man's parents find out that he has done something wrong.

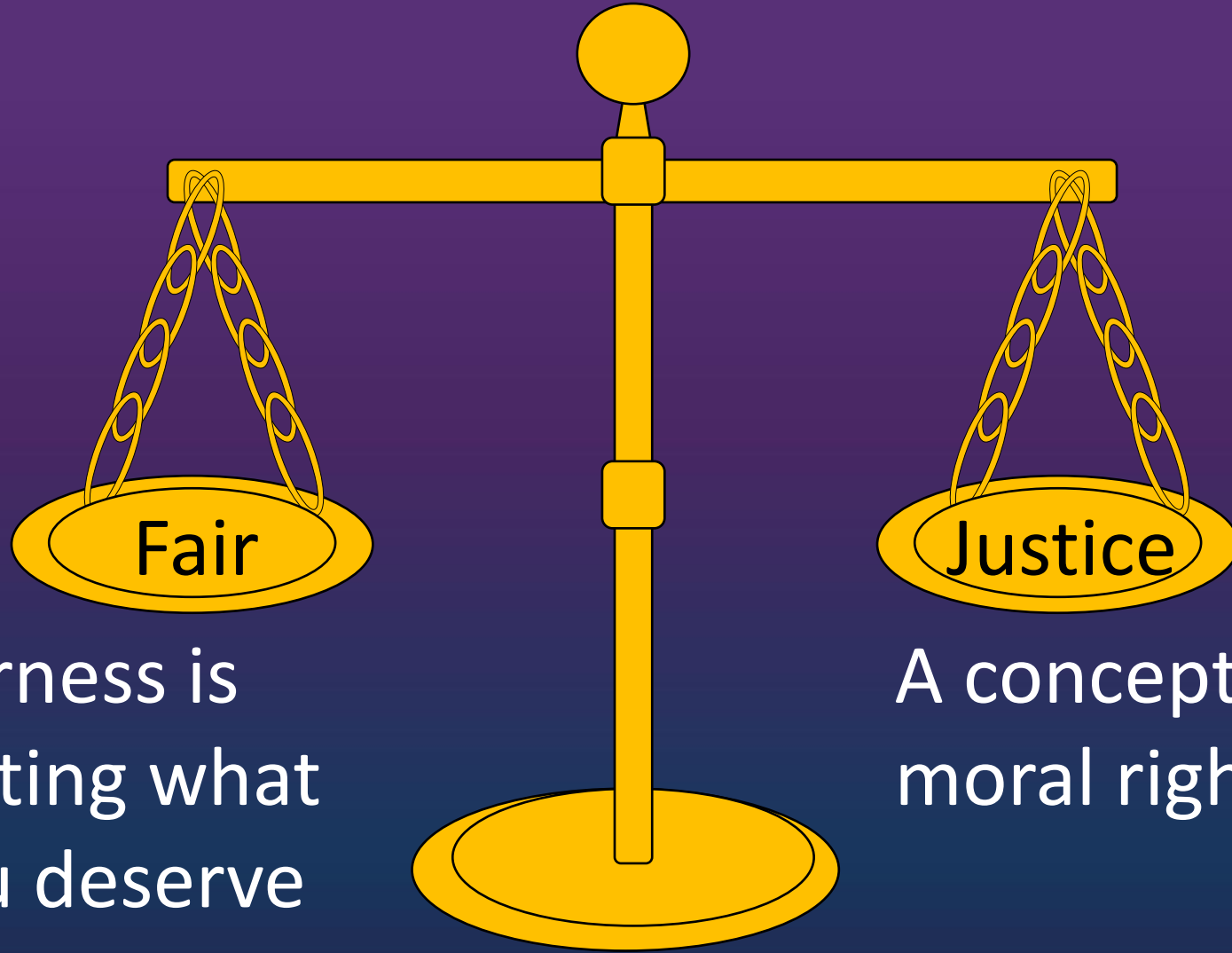
When they discuss the problem with him, he tries to excuse his behavior rather than acknowledging the wrong choice he has made.

After the young man's parents explain that he will receive consequences for his poor choice, he becomes upset and claims it is not fair that he will receive consequences.



What are some other examples of times when we might be tempted to try to excuse our wrong behavior rather than acknowledging our errors and accepting the consequences?

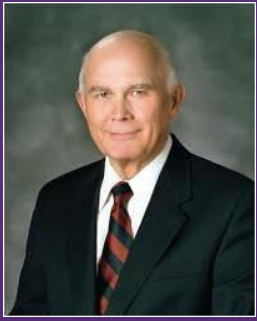
I Want The Final Judgment To Be Fair



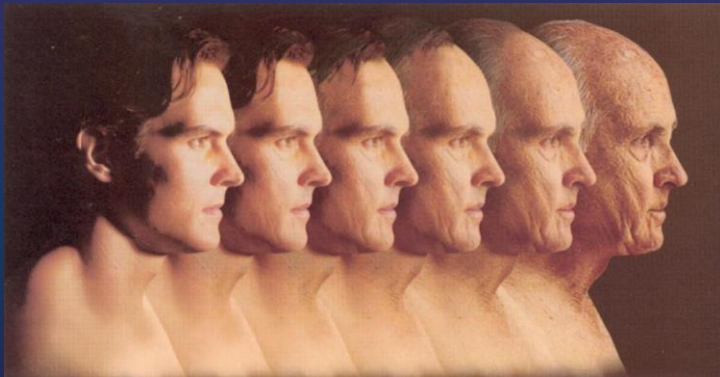
Fairness is
getting what
you deserve

A concept of
moral rightness

The justice of God either rewards righteousness or
punishes sin



“Justice has many meanings. One is balance. A popular symbol of justice is scales in balance. Thus, when the laws of man have been violated, justice usually requires that a punishment be imposed, a penalty that will restore the balance [to the scales]. ...



“[The] laws of God are likewise concerned with justice. The idea of justice as what one deserves is the fundamental premise of all scriptures that speak of men’s being judged according to their works.”
Dallin H. Oaks

The Fairness of the Final Judgment

Corianton

Should a sinner be confined to a state of misery?



We all sin and are subject to the demands of justice

Justice means receiving what we deserve and being punished for our sins



“Real happiness lies not in denying the justice of God or trying to circumvent the consequences of sin but in repentance and forgiveness through the atoning grace of the Son of God”
--Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Cherubim

Webster's Dictionary 1828—in the celestial hierarchy, cherubs are represented as spirits next in order to seraphs”

Hebrew word—
plural of cherub
though it is used in
scriptures as a
singular noun.



Their duties are to guard
the holy place, or the place
where God dwells



The Flaming Sword—The Tree of Life



In the allegorical representations of Eden it is from the tree of life that the nourishment of immortality is obtained.

Thus the cherubim were called upon to guard the fruits of the tree from Adam and Eve in their fallen state.”

JFM and RLM



Josh Keele

Two Trees

The Tree of Life

Leading to Eternal life

“I, the Lord God, planted the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and also the tree of knowledge of good and evil. ...
“And I, the Lord God, commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat,
“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, nevertheless, thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee; but, remember that I forbid it, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
(Moses 3:9, 16–17.)



The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Leading to death (the fall)—away from the presence of God—once taken of the fruit the access to the Tree of Life was taken away



If Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree of life they would have lived in their sins forever—so He took Adam and Eve away from the Tree of Life.

C. Wilfred Griggs

Probationary Time—Mortal Life

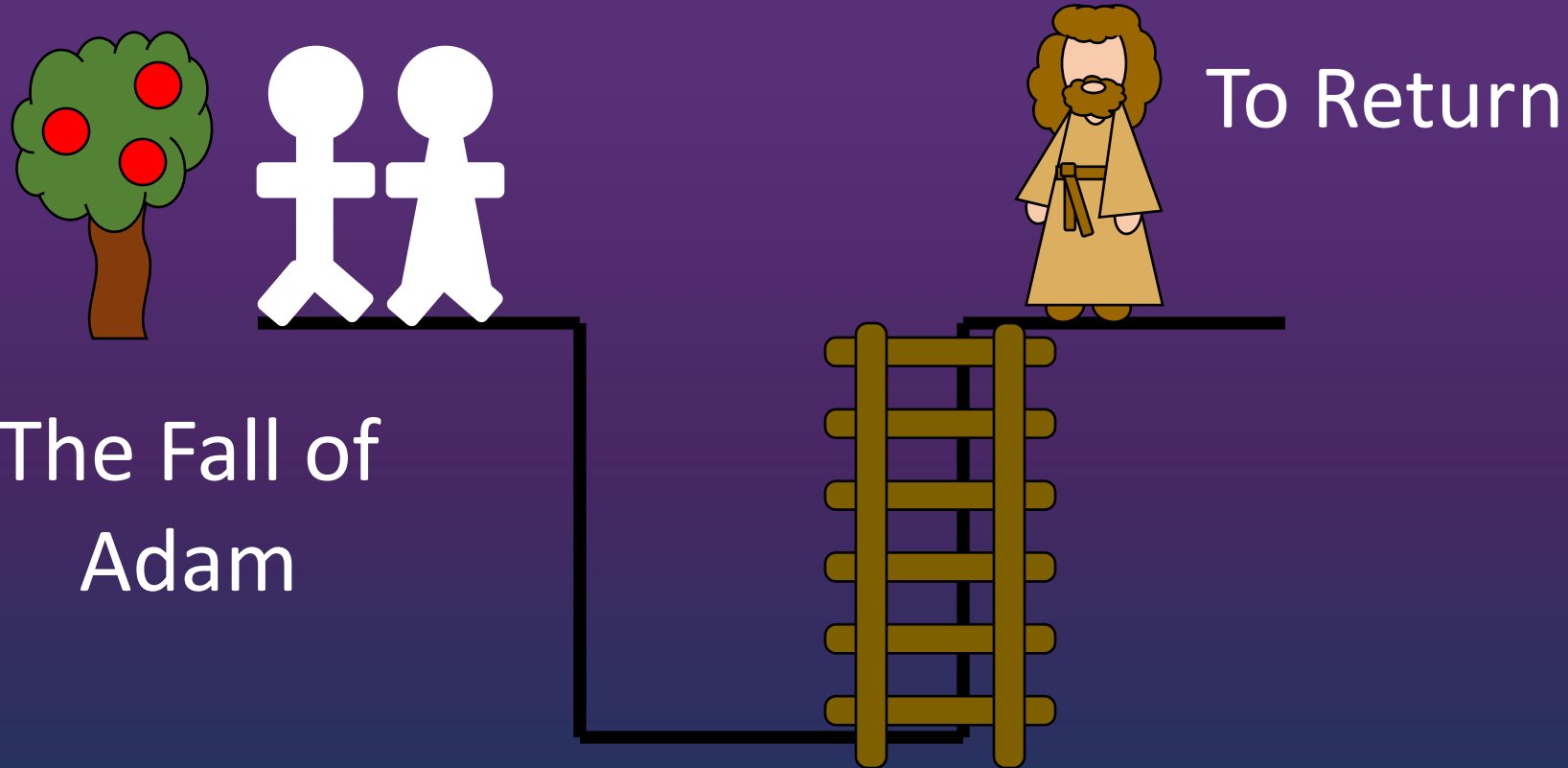
“And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; wherefore, their state became a state of probation, and their time was lengthened, according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men. For he gave commandment that all men must repent; for he showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents.”

2 Nephi 2:21



“And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;”
Abraham 3:25

The Fall of Adam—All Men to Die

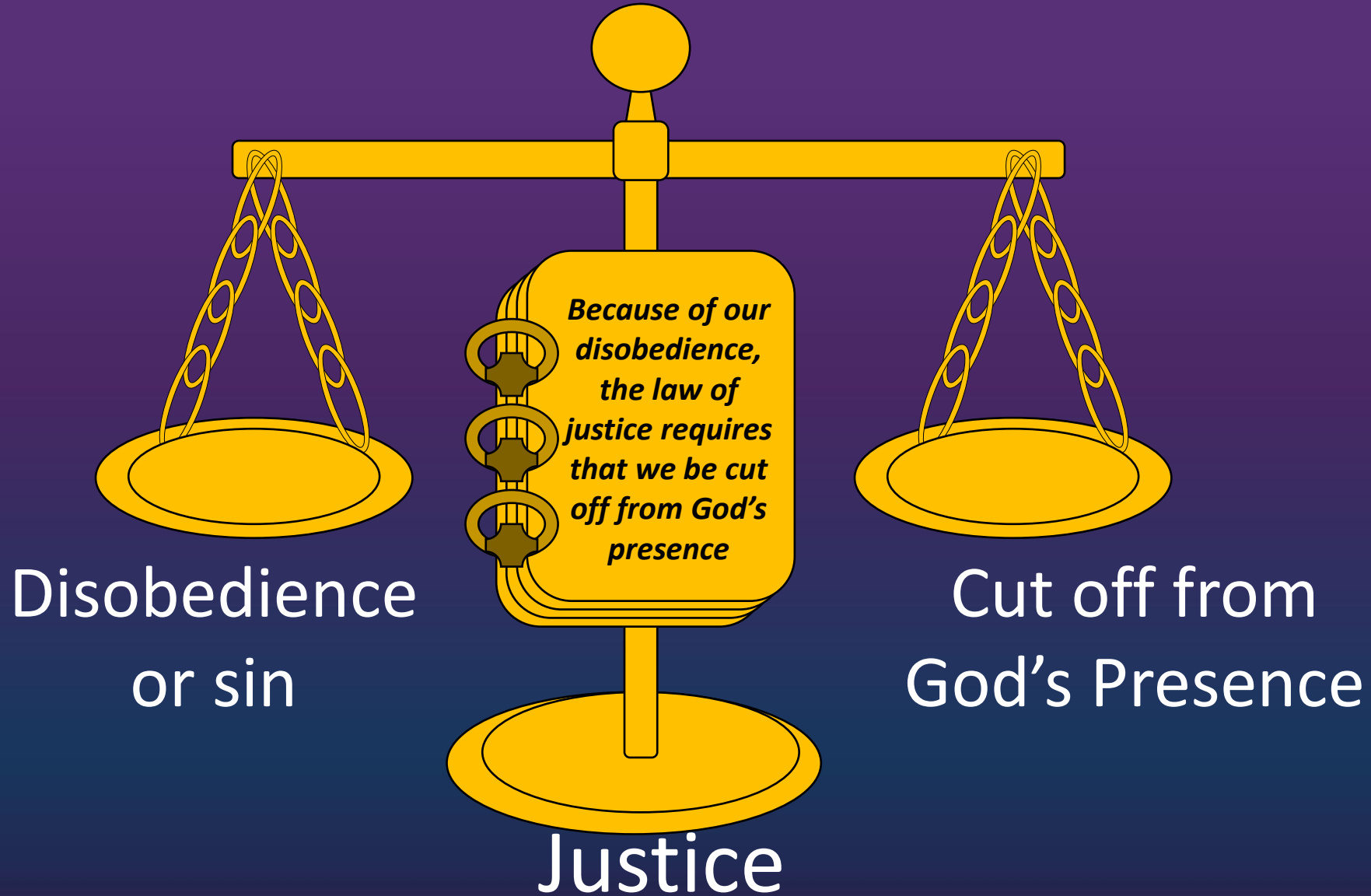


The Fall of
Adam

Brought all mankind into a fallen state in which they must experience physical death and spiritual death

There must be a way to be reclaimed from this fallen state; for all mankind would be miserable and cut off from God's presence forever

Being “Cut Off” from God’s Presence



If the demands of justice cannot be erased, then how can those who have sinned (each of us) ever have peace of conscience and be restored to the presence of God?



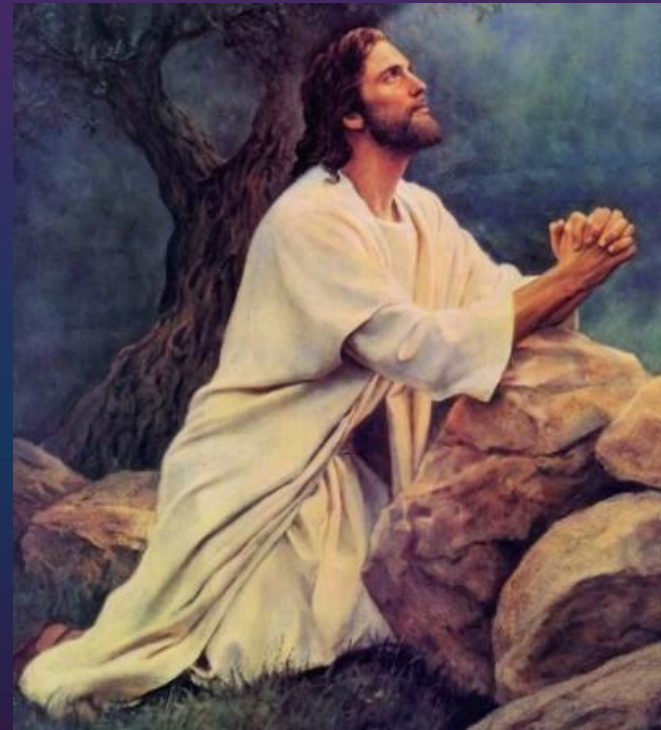
God has made it possible for us to be saved from misery and to return to His presence for eternity.

The Plan of Mercy

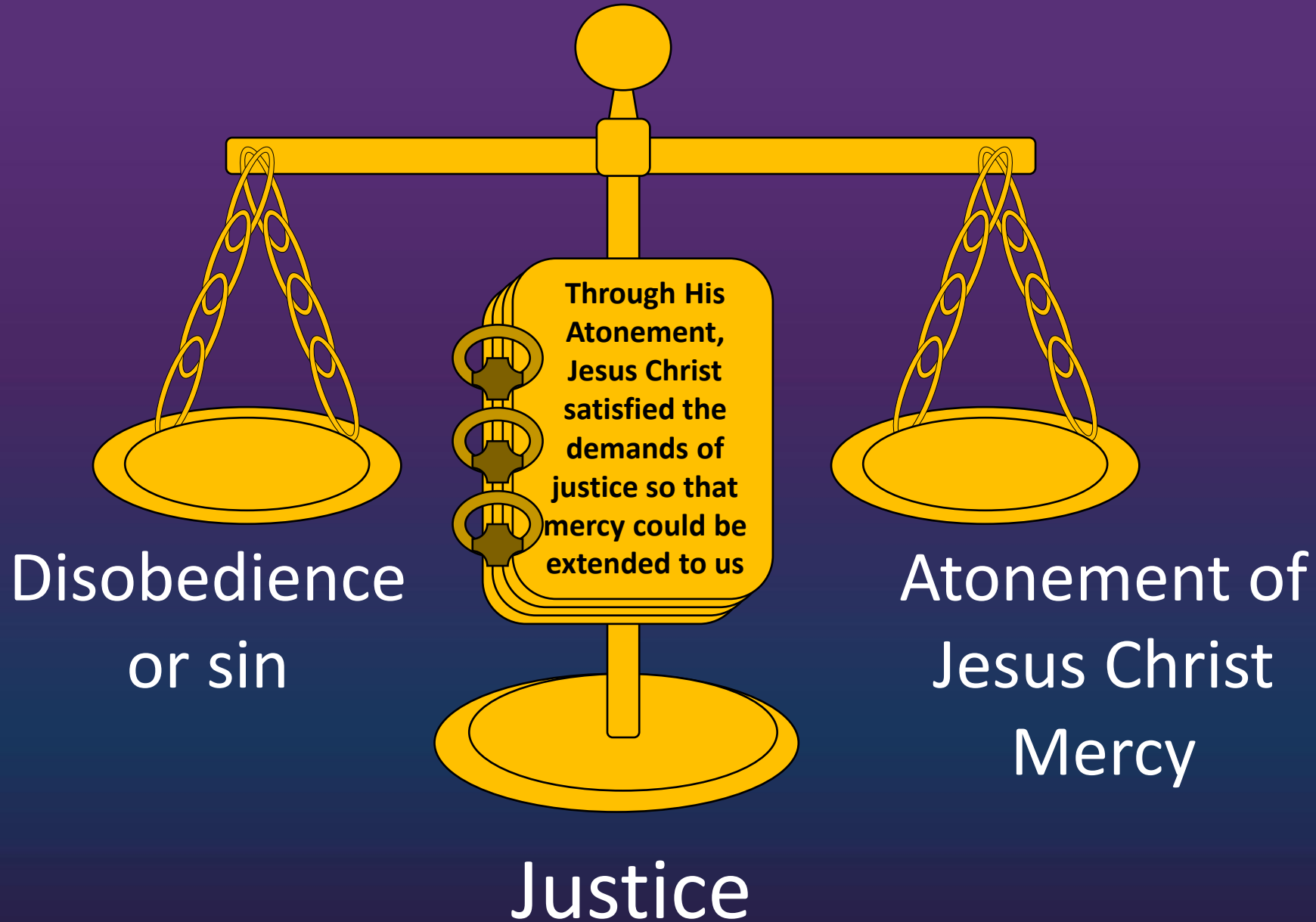
“And now, the plan of mercy could not be brought about except an atonement should be made; therefore God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy, to appease the demands of justice, that God might be a perfect, just God, and a merciful God also.”

The demands of Justice must be satisfied

When God’s laws are broken, justice requires punishment...the demands must somehow be met.



Atonement of Jesus Christ and Mercy





The Mediator

“Christ is not only a mediator but also a judge. It is in that role of judge that we may find even greater meaning in [the] expression that ‘God himself’ will come down to redeem his people.

It is as if the judge in that great courtroom in heaven, unwilling to ask anyone but himself to bear the burdens of the guilty people standing in the dock, takes off his judicial robes and comes down to earth to bear their stripes personally. Christ as merciful judge is as beautiful and wonderful a concept as that of Christ as counselor, mediator, and advocate.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland



Repentance And Suffering

The plan of redemption can be brought about only on conditions of repentance

Gift of the Holy Ghost

Baptism

Repentance

Faith

If we repent, we will receive mercy through the Savior's Atonement

Partake of the Waters Freely

Alma encourages Corianton to:

To not let the plan of salvation trouble him

That his sins will bring him down to
repentance

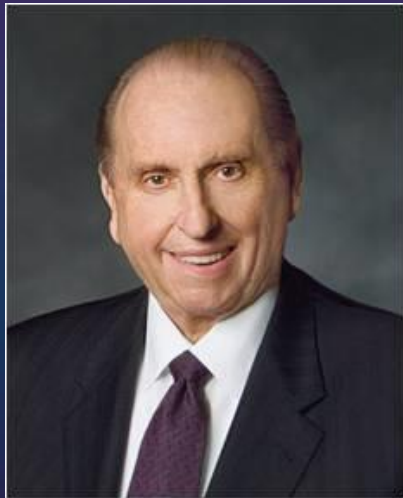
Cease from excusing himself in sin and in
denying the justice of God

To return to his missionary labor and
“declare the word with truth and
sobriety”



Trouble Down Unto Repentance

Rather than seeking to excuse our sins, we can let our sins trouble us and bring us to repentance.



“(We) should not persist in remembering that which the Lord has said He is willing to forget”

Thomas S. Monson

Sources:

Video:

The Mediator (10:44)



Dallin H. Oaks (“Sins, Crimes, and Atonement” [address to CES religious educators, Feb. 7, 1992], 1, si.lds.org).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 311

Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“The Blessing of Scripture,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 34).

C. Wilfred Griggs *The Tree of Life in Ancient Cultures* June Ensign 1988

The Two Trees of Valinor by rainqueen01

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland (*Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon* [1997], 81).

“The Mediator,” which is found on *Book of Mormon DVD Presentations 1–19* (54011) and LDS.org. Allow 10:44...This video presentation could be used in place of the statement by President Boyd K. Packer in the lesson. If you choose to use the video, adjust your lesson plan to make sure you have enough time to finish the video and teach the principle of repentance and receiving mercy through the Savior’s Atonement. April 1997 Gen. Conf. Address

Thomas S. Monson quoting Hugh B. Brown---Ensign May 1995 pg 59-60

Jesus Christ is our Mediator. A mediator is one who stands between two parties to help resolve a conflict. Ask a student to read aloud the following statement by President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“By eternal law, mercy cannot be extended save there be one who is both willing and able to assume our debt and pay the price and arrange the terms for our redemption.

“Unless there is a mediator, unless we have a friend, the full weight of justice untempered, unsympathetic, must, positively must fall on us. The full recompense for every transgression, however minor or however deep, will be exacted from us to the uttermost farthing.

“But know this: Truth, glorious truth, proclaims there is such a Mediator. ...

“Through Him mercy can be fully extended to each of us without offending the eternal law of justice. ...

“The extension of mercy will not be automatic. It will be through covenant with Him. It will be on His terms, His generous terms” (**“The Mediator,”** *Ensign*, May 1977, 55–56).

Justice: “In scriptural terms, justice is the unchanging law that brings consequences for actions. Because of the law of justice, we receive blessings when we obey God’s commandments. The law of justice also demands that a penalty be paid for every sin we commit” (Gospel Topics, “Justice,” topics.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Mercy: “Mercy is the compassionate treatment of a person greater than what is deserved, and it is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ” (Gospel Topics, “Mercy,” topics.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

The love of God does not supersede His laws and His commandments, and the effect of God’s laws and commandments does not diminish the purpose and effect of His love. ...

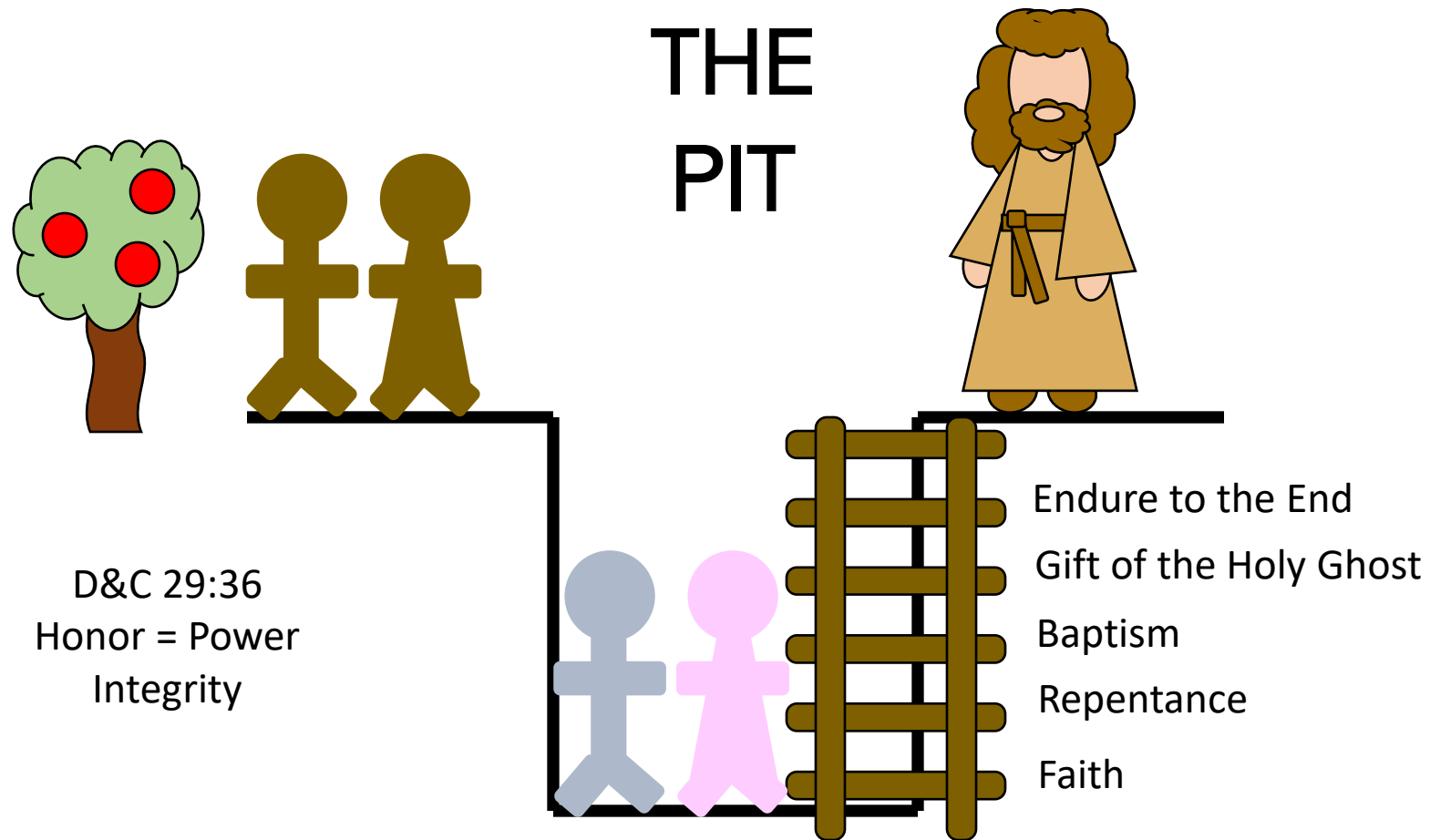
Some seem to value God’s love because of their hope that His love is so great and so unconditional that it will mercifully excuse them from obeying His laws. In contrast, those who understand God’s plan for His children know that God’s laws are invariable, which is another great evidence of His love for His children. Mercy cannot rob justice, and those who obtain mercy are “they who have kept the covenant and observed the commandment” (D&C 54:6). (Dallin H. Oaks, “Love and Law,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 26–27)

Justice is an essential attribute of God. We can have faith in God because He is perfectly trustworthy. The scriptures teach us that “God doth not walk in crooked paths, neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth he vary from that which he hath said, therefore his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round” [Doctrine and Covenants 3:2] and that “God is no respecter of persons” [Acts 10:34]. We rely on the divine quality of justice for faith, confidence, and hope.

But as a consequence of being perfectly just, there are some things God cannot do. He cannot be arbitrary in saving some and banishing others. He “cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance” [Doctrine and Covenants 1:31]. He cannot allow mercy to rob justice [see Alma 42:25].

It is compelling evidence of His justice that God has forged the companion principle of mercy. It is because He is just that He devised the means for mercy to play its indispensable role in our eternal destiny. (D. Todd Christofferson, “Free Forever, to Act for Themselves,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2014, 17)

Having satisfied the demands of justice, Christ now steps into the place of justice; or we might say He is justice, just as He is love [see 1 John 4:8]. Likewise, besides being a “perfect, just God,” He is a perfect, merciful God [Alma 42:15; see also Mosiah 15:8–9]. Thus, the Savior makes all things right. No injustice in mortality is permanent, even death, for He restores life again. No injury, disability, betrayal, or abuse goes uncompensated in the end because of His ultimate justice and mercy. (D. Todd Christofferson, “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 112)



People in the Pit don't know they need to be saved

What make them aware of the Pit? Testimony borne by others/scriptures

What moves them to find the ladder? Faith in the testimony and accompanying Spirit

What does one have to do to begin climbing? Shake off the dirt of this World – Repent

What are the rungs on the ladder? Covenants...a process to return to Heavenly Father

What does God give us to help us climb the ladder? Companionship of the Gift of the Holy Ghost

What can we do to keep our covenants? Repent often and renew your covenants through the Sacrament

Where do we get our power? Ourselves. This power enables us to keep each covenant and the process of climbing up transforms us into the character and countenance of Christ and we eventually become Co-heirs with Christ to all that the Father has.