

The Kingdom of God

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The Kingdom of God

And I have given unto you another law and commandment; wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. For no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name; and the name of his Only Begotten is the son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time. Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying, that by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death; and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so become of dust a living soul; Even so ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be sanctified from all sin; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory. For, by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified; and by the blood ye are sanctified.

Genesis 6:59-63

Following His death and resurrection, we read that Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples on several occasions teaching and expounding on all principles concerning the Kingdom of God. “And he [Jesus] said unto them [the apostles], Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world...He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.¹”

The great commission which was given to the apostles before Jesus ascended to stand on the right hand of God is just as important then as it is in the latter days. For Paul wrote in his second epistle to the Corinthians that every individual who has been baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ, whether a member or priesthood member, is called to be an ambassador for Christ.² Although only priesthood have the authority to baptize and confirm members to God’s Church, Paul wrote to all mankind, saying, “For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.³” In other words, because Jesus Christ has redeemed us and saved our eternal life, we ought to respond by sharing His Gospel to every person that God places along our path.

¹ Mark 16:14-15 and Matthew 28:18-19

² 2 Corinthians 5:20

³ 2 Corinthians 5:21

In response to Jesus's commission, we read, "And they [the apostles] went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.⁴" However, before the apostles were able to go forth and preach concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God, they first had to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom themselves. Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew, chapter seven, "For the world cannot receive that which ye *yourselves, are not able to bear.*⁵" How can the sons and daughters of God go into the world and teach about the principles of the Kingdom if we ourselves are not able to understand them or able to keep them?

It is important for the reader to know that this does not excuse us from the great commission, for Jesus said unto all the disciples, "Go ye into the world, saying unto all, *Repent*, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you. And the mysteries of the kingdom ye shall *keep within yourselves*; for it is not meet to give that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls unto swine, lest they trample them under their feet.⁶" In other words, for those individuals who have not yet entered into the covenant of baptism, we must first teach nothing save baptism unto repentance in the name of Jesus Christ for a remission of sins. "And I command you that you preach naught but repentance, and show not these things unto the world *until* it is wisdom *in me*; for they cannot bear meat now, but *milk they must receive*; wherefore, they must not know these things [the mysteries of the Kingdom], *lest they perish.*⁷"

While the Master has called His saints to preach repentance and faith on His name to the whole world in order to build up the Kingdom of God, the *mysteries* of the Kingdom must only be taught to those who have followed their Lord and Savior down into the waters of baptism, have received the gift of the Holy Ghost by one having authority, and have been confirmed a member of the Church of God. Wherefore, in order to seek "first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness,⁸" we have been called to preach the preparatory gospel of repentance and baptism so that people might be born into the Kingdom [read **Chapter Two** and **Chapter Seven**]. Please read the great commission to the Church in the latter days from Doctrine and Covenants 6:1-4 and 16:3b-4a:

6:1a A great and marvelous work is about to come forth unto the children of men: **6:1b** behold, I am God, and give heed unto my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow: **6:1c** therefore, give heed unto my words.

6:2a Behold, the field is white already to harvest, therefore **whoso desireth to reap**, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul **everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God**; **6:2b** yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, **the same is called of God**; **6:2c** therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive, if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

⁴ Mark 16:21

⁵ Matthew 7:11

⁶ Matthew 7:9-10

⁷ DC 18:2l-m

⁸ Matthew 6:38

6:3a Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion: **6:3b** seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. **6:3c** Behold, he that *hath eternal life is rich.*

6:4a Verily, verily I say unto you, Even as you desire of me, so shall it be unto you; and if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation. **6:4b** Say nothing but repentance unto this generation: keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.

16:3b for, behold, I command all men everywhere to repent... **16:3c** Remember the *worth of souls is great in the sight of God;* for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the *pain of all men,* that *all men* might repent and come unto him. **16:3d** And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him on conditions of repentance. **16:3e** And how great is *his joy* in the soul that repented. Wherefore you are called to cry repentance unto this people. **16:3f** And if it so be that you should labor all your days, in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! **16:4a** And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy, if you should bring many souls unto me!

In Section Ten of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord said, “Behold, I command you, that you need not suppose that you are called to preach *until* you are called: wait a little longer, *until* you shall have my word, my rock, my church, and my gospel, that you man *know of a surety my doctrine; and then,* behold, according to your desires, yea, even according to your faith, shall it be done unto you.”⁹ Once again, the Master explained that the world cannot receive what we are not able to understand or to bear. Therefore, in order for us to thrust in our sickle with all our might and to build up of the Kingdom of God with a full purpose of heart, we must be born into the Kingdom, we must understand what the Kingdom is, and we must be able to walk uprightly in the Kingdom of God that we might receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

Born into the Everlasting Kingdom of God

In Genesis, chapter six, God told Adam “that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can no wise *inherit* the kingdom of God. For no unclean thing *can dwell there, or dwell in his presence.*¹⁰” We have discussed in Chapter Two, as well as in other chapters throughout this book, that because of the transgression of Adam and Eve, “our first parents were cut off, both temporally and spiritually, from the presence of the Lord; and thus we see they became subjects to follow after their *own will,*¹¹ which caused a temporal and spiritual death to fall upon all mankind. We read in the Scriptures that except there was an infinite atonement “this flesh must have lain down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise not more...For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to

⁹ DC 10:8

¹⁰ Genesis 6:59-60

¹¹ Alma 19:88

that angel who fell from before the presence of the eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more. And our spirits must have become *like unto him*, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be *shut out from the presence of our God*, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself.¹²"

However, because of the atoning blood of the Son of God we know that not all was lost. "And by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ, even the Father¹³ and the Son; and because of Jesus Christ came the *redemption of man*. And because of the redemption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are brought back into the presence of the Lord...And they shall come forth, both small and great, and *all shall* stand before his bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death; and then cometh *judgment* of the Holy One upon them.¹⁴"

Although Adam's transgression brought a temporal and spiritual separation from God upon all the children of men, we know that this was part of God's great plan of happiness. For through the fall, all mankind was born into a world where we could experience opposition, "even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter; wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself,¹⁵" and thus mankind was given power to choose God because they love Him, and not because they had no other choice. "Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.¹⁶" Nevertheless, in order to understand our gift of agency, or in other words our free will, mankind first had to be separated from the presence of God, which separation came through our sin and disobedience.

God told Adam from the very foundation of the world that no unclean thing can inherit His Kingdom or can dwell in His presence. Wherefore, because God is a God of love and because His greatest desire is "to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man,¹⁷" the Lord God has prepared the way through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ that all mankind might be redeemed from their sins and brought back into His presence, which is accomplished by the children of men being born into the everlasting Kingdom of the Lamb. Thus, God gave Adam "a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying, that *by reason of transgression* cometh the fall, which fall *bringeth death*; and inasmuch as ye were born *into the world* by water and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so become of dust a living soul; Even so *ye must be born again*, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be *sanctified from all sin*; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory. For, by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified; and by the blood ye are sanctified.¹⁸"

¹² 2 Nephi 6:16-21

¹³ In this Scripture, Jesus is called the Father because God created all things through Jesus Christ, thus, not only has He purchased us with His blood, but He also helped to create us as well.

¹⁴ Mormon 4:71-74

¹⁵ 2 Nephi 1:98-99

¹⁶ 2 Nephi 1:115

¹⁷ DC 22:23b

¹⁸ Genesis 6:61-63

Similar to what His Father told Adam in the book of Genesis, Jesus told Nicodemus in the third chapter of John that he too must be born again, saying, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he *cannot see the kingdom of God*.¹⁹” Interestingly, while Adam asked God, “Why is it that men must repent, and be baptized in water,²⁰” Nicodemus asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb and be born?²¹” Although these two questions were phrased differently, both Adam and Nicodemus had a similar inquiry, which essentially was “Why must we be born into the Kingdom of God, and how is it done?” To which the Master answered, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born of water, and the Spirit*, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, *is spirit*. Marvel not that I said unto thee, *Ye must be born again*.²²”

God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son, explained to Adam and Nicodemus that every man and woman is born in the flesh through water, Spirit, and blood, and “inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin [born into the world], even so, when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good. And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves.” Moreover, the Father and the Son taught that as we are conceived into a world which is spiritually separated from God, the only way that mankind can be cleansed and enter back into the presence of God is to repent and be born of the Spirit into the Kingdom of Heaven. Providentially, both God and Jesus explained that it is through the baptism of the water and of the Spirit that we are born into the Kingdom, and that it is through the blood of Christ that we are sanctified from all sin so that we can dwell in the presence of God. Please read the following Scripture passage about how we must be born again from Alma 5:17-28:

5:17 But behold, the Spirit hath said this much unto me, saying: Cry unto this people, saying, Repent ye, repent ye and prepare the way of the Lord, and walk in his paths, which are straight:

5:18 For behold, the **kingdom of heaven is at hand**, and the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth. **5:19** And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem, which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed, and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God; **5:20** And he shall go forth, suffering pains, and afflictions, and temptations of every kind; **5:21** And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith, He will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people; and he will take upon him death, that he may **loose the bands of death which bind his people**: [read Hebrews 2:14-15] **5:22** And he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities. [read Hebrews 2:17-18]

5:23 Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh, that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might **blot out their**

¹⁹ John 3:3

²⁰ Genesis 6:54

²¹ John 3:4

²² John 3:5-7

transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me.

5:24 Now I say unto you, that ye must repent, and **be born again**: for the Spirit saith, If ye are not born again, ye **can not inherit** the kingdom of heaven; **5:25** Therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness; **5:26** Yea, I say unto you, Come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction; **5:27** Yea, come and go forth, and shew unto your God that ye are **willing to repent of your sins**, and **enter into a covenant** with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day, by going into the waters of baptism; **5:28** And whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God **from thenceforth**, the same will remember that I say unto him, yea, he will remember that I have said unto him, he shall have **eternal life**, according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me.

It is through our covenant of baptism of the water and of the Spirit that we enter into the Kingdom of God, for Nephi testified that all mankind ought to follow the footsteps of Jesus, writing, “And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the *straightness of the path*, and the *narrowness of the gate*, by which they should enter, he [Jesus] having set the example before them. Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen, that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: For, for this cause have they been shewn unto me, that ye might know *the gate* by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is *repentance and baptism by water*: and then cometh a remission of your sins *by fire, and by the Holy Ghost*. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in *by the gate*; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; And ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that *if ye enter in by the way, ye should receive.*²³”

By entering into the gate, not only are we added to the Church of Jesus Christ, but we also become citizens of God’s Kingdom on earth. Paul wrote in Ephesians, chapter two, that without entering into that covenant with the Son of God we are all “strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God *in the world.*²⁴” When we enter into that covenant we receive the promise from God that if we will keep all of His commandments and endure to the end, *then we shall receive eternal life*. However, the covenants of promise are not only for us as individuals, but they are for the whole world as well, for God also commands His sons and His daughters to keep the everlasting covenant which will cause Zion to have place on the earth so “that the kingdoms of this world may be constrained to acknowledge that the Kingdom of Zion is in very deed the kingdom of our God and His Christ.²⁵” Please read from Ephesians 2:11-22:

²³ 2 Nephi 13:11 and 23-26

²⁴ Ephesians 2:12

²⁵ DC 102:9b

2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye were in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world; **2:13** But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off **are made nigh** by the blood of Christ.

2:14 For he is our peace, **who hath made both one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; **2:15** Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments [the law of Moses which does not bring salvation] contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain **one new man**, so making peace; **2:16** And that he might reconcile both unto God in **one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby; **2:17** And came and preached peace to you which were afar off [Gentiles], and to them that were nigh [Jews].

2:18 For through him we both [Gentiles and Jews] have access by one Spirit unto the Father. **2:19** Now therefore ye are **no more strangers and foreigners**, but **fellow citizens** with the saints, and of the household of God; **2:20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; **2:21** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an **holy temple in the Lord**; **2:22** In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God **through the Spirit**.

Just as Paul wrote how the Jews and the Gentiles were made one through Jesus Christ, we are all made one and fellow citizens of the Kingdom of God through the covenant of baptism. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for ye are all one** in Christ Jesus. And if ye are Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.²⁶” The purpose of the Kingdom is so that God can bring together all things in one under Jesus Christ, even Zion, and this so that God can be in all and through all.

An Inheritance Incorruptible

In Genesis, chapter twelve, the Lord appeared unto Abraham saying that in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, meaning that through the lineage of Abraham Jesus Christ would be born, and also that He would give Abraham and his seed a Promised Land for an inheritance. In response to God’s promise of a land overflowing with milk and honey, Abraham departed out of the country of Haran with his family and traveled into the land of Canaan. Once there, “the Lord said unto Abram...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; And remember the covenant which I make with thee; for it shall be an **everlasting covenant**; and thou shalt remember the days of Enoch thy father; For all the land which thou seest, will I give thee, **and to thy seed for ever**; and I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, thy seed shall also be numbered...And thou shalt ***observe to keep all my covenants*** wherein I covenanted with thy fathers; and thou shalt keep the commandments which I have given thee with mine own mouth, and I will be a God unto thee and thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee

²⁶ Galatians 3:26-29

and thy seed after thee, a land wherein thou art a stranger; all the land of Canaan, for an *everlasting possession*; and I will be their God.²⁷"

Through God's promise to Abraham, all those who were born of his seed became children of the promise, not through the law of Moses but through faith [read Romans 4:13], and this because of their heritage. Nonetheless, it was not until several hundred years following God's promise to Abraham that we read that his seed, the children of Israel, were brought forth out of bondage in the land of Egypt and led to the Promised Land through the mighty hand of the Lord. For Moses told his people, "But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a *people of inheritance*, as ye are this day."²⁸" Correspondingly, God has promised an inheritance for all those who are born into His Kingdom.

The promise of an everlasting possession which the Lord gave unto Abraham and his seed is a type and shadow of the eternal inheritance that all mankind might receive in the Kingdom of God if they respond as Abraham did, who "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; *But for us also*, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."

According to the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, the word inheritance means "an estate derived from an ancestor to an heir by succession or in course of law; or an estate which the law casts on a child or other person, as the representative of the deceased ancestor." Therefore, just as the sons and daughters of Abraham were promised a physical inheritance because they were heirs by succession, those who have been spiritually begotten of Jesus Christ have both been born into the Kingdom of God and have been given the spiritual promise of eternal life. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of *adoption*...The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the *children of God*; and if children, then heirs; *heirs of God*, and *joint heirs with Christ*; if it so be that we suffer with him that we may be also glorified together."²⁹" Please read from Ephesians 1:3-12:

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; **1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame before him in love**; **1:5** Having predestinated³⁰ us unto the ***adoption of children*** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **1:6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved; **1:7** In whom we have redemption ***through his blood***, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; **1:8** Wherein he hath abounded toward

²⁷ Genesis 13:12-14 and Genesis 17:12-13

²⁸ Deuteronomy 4:20

²⁹ Romans 8:14-17

³⁰ Predestinated is the aforeknowledge of God

us in all wisdom and prudence; **1:9** Having made known unto us the **mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself; **1:10** That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together **in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; **even in him;** **1:11** In whom also we have **obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will; **1:12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Through Adam and Eve's transgression, all of mankind was both temporally and spiritually separated from God, thus it is His will to gather all things back unto Himself through His Only Begotten Son so that we might become joint heirs of the promise. However, in order for mankind to have place in this inheritance they must first be spiritually adopted into the family of God through the water, the Holy Spirit, and the blood of Jesus Christ "to an *inheritance incorruptible*, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.³¹"

In the fifth chapter of Genesis and the first chapter of Colossians, we find that the Gospel of the Jesus Christ and the Kingdom has been preached from the very beginning unto all the generations of the world [read Genesis 5:44-45 and Colossians 1:5-6]. Likewise, the promise of an eternal inheritance with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost has also been taught from the foundation of the world. Even Darius, the king of Persia, said, "I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and *his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed*, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He *delivereth and rescueth*, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.³²"

Nonetheless, just as the seed of Abraham was scattered from the land of their inheritance because of their disobedience, a citizen of the Kingdom of God will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven except they keep the commandments of God and endure to the end. Paul taught the saints at Corinth, saying, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.³³"

Again, it is by the water, the Spirit, and the blood that we are made partakers of the heavenly gift. If we do not live even as Christ lived, how then shall we be sanctified from all sin and dwell in the presence of our God forever? "And if I subdue not the sin which is in me, but with the flesh serve the law of sin; O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus

³¹ 1 Peter 1:4-5

³² Daniel 6:26-27

³³ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Christ our Lord, then, that so with the mind I myself serve the law of God.³⁴" Please read the following Scripture passage of what the Lord will do for those who serve and love Him in truth from Psalm 145:10-21:

145:10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and **thy saints shall bless thee.** **145:11** They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; **145:12** To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. **145:13** Thy kingdom is an **everlasting kingdom**, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

145:14 The Lord **upholdeth** all that fall, and **raiseth up** all those that be bowed down. **145:15** The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. **145:16** Thou openest thine hand, and **satisfiest the desire** of every living thing. **145:17** The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. **145:18** The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. **145:19** He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will **hear their cry**, and **will save them.** **145:20** The Lord **preserveth all them that love him**; but all the wicked will he destroy. **145:21** My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Through taking upon us the name of Jesus Christ and being born into the Kingdom, we have received a promise of eternal inheritance. Jesus said, "Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, Even as I am."³⁵ Amulek explained to Zeezrom in the eighth chapter of Alma that God "hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; Therefore how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore ye can not be saved in your sins.³⁶" "But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel; they who have *endured the crosses of the world*, and despised the shame of it; they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the *foundation of the world*: and their joy shall be full for ever.³⁷" Please read from 2 Nephi 6:43-48 and 2 Peter 1:4-11 concerning the prominence of God and Jesus Christ and how we ought to live as sons and daughters of God in order to inherit that everlasting and incorruptible Kingdom:

6:43 O the greatness of the mercy of our God, the Holy One of Israel! For he delivereth his saints from that awful monster the devil, and death, and hell, and that lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment. **6:44** Oh how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it.

6:45 And he cometh into the world that he may save all men, **if they will hearken unto his voice;** **6:46** For behold, he suffereth the pains of all men: yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women and children, who belong to the family of Adam. **6:47** And he suffereth this, that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and

³⁴ Romans 7:26-27

³⁵ 3 Nephi 13:5

³⁶ Alma 8:91-92

³⁷ 2 Nephi 6:42

judgment day. **6:48** And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they **can not be saved in the kingdom of God.**

1:4 Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**; that by these **ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1:5 And besides this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; **1:6** And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; **1:7** And to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. **1:8** For if these things be in you, **and abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1:9** But he that lacketh these things **is blind**, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was **purged from his old sins**.

1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall; **1:11** For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the ***everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***.

Brothers and sisters the promise of the Kingdom is sure and true, however it is more than simply being baptized in the name of Christ, but it is walking hand in hand with our Redeemer, our Friend, and our King now and for eternity, then and only then will the Kingdom of our God and His Christ, which is a spiritual Kingdom, be manifested physically upon the earth. For at that time, the will of God will truly be done on earth as it is in heaven. The assurance of an eternal inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven is a promise to all mankind as individuals, but the promise of Zion and Celestial Glory is a promise to the whole earth. As Jesus asked, "Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be?"³⁸ For we will receive our inheritance according to our works, please read the parable of the sheep and goats from Matthew 25:33-47:

25:33 And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, **as a shepherd divideth sheep from the goats**; the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. **25:34** And he shall sit upon his throne, and the twelve apostles with him.

25:35 Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**. **25:36** For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; **25:37** I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

25:38 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee; or thirsty, and gave thee drink? **25:39** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee? **25:40** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

³⁸ 3 Nephi 13:5

25:41 And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, **ye have done it unto me.**

25:42 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. **25:43** For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; **25:44** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. **25:45** Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? **25:46** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, **ye did it not unto me.** **25:47** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but **the righteous into life eternal.**

The Spiritual Kingdom of God

Throughout all generations, many people have assuredly asked the question, "What is the Kingdom of God," "Is it a physical Kingdom, or a spiritual," and "How do we build it up?" In Luke, chapter seventeen, the Pharisees posed a similar question to Jesus by asking "when the kingdom of God should come.³⁹" The Master answered and said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; Neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, Lo, there! For, behold, the kingdom of God has already come unto you.⁴⁰" Similarly, the Pharisees approached Jesus in the sixteenth chapter of Luke and derided Him, saying "We have the law, and the prophets; but as for this man we will not receive him to be our ruler; for he maketh himself to be a judge over us." Jesus responded by saying, "The law and the prophets testify of me; yea, and all the prophets who have written, even until John, have foretold of these days. Since that time, the kingdom of God is preached, and every man who seeketh truth presseth into it.⁴¹"

When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the Kingdom of God and when it was to be made manifest, He plainly explained that the Kingdom was not something that they could see with their natural eyes, but rather that the Kingdom was spiritual and that it had already come to them. In addition, Jesus said that every man who seeks for the truth will press into the Kingdom. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men; who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness, after that which may be known of God is manifest to them. For God hath revealed unto them the *invisible* things of him, from the creation of the world, *which are clearly seen;* things which are not seen *being understood* by the things that are made, through his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse;⁴² because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were they thankful, but became *vain* in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts *were darkened.*⁴³" In other words, God has revealed the truth of His Kingdom to those who desire to obtain it

³⁹ Luke 17:20

⁴⁰ Luke 17:20-21

⁴¹ Luke 16:16-18

⁴² It is important to understand that Paul is talking about those individuals who have received the Gospel, not to those who have never been given the opportunity to hear or to learn.

⁴³ Romans 1:18-21

by utilizing things which are clearly seen, while at the same time hiding the truth of His Kingdom by making them invisible to those who love not the truth.

For example, the law of Moses which was given to the Israelites after they rejected the everlasting covenant and the higher priesthood [this will be covered in detail in **Chapter Twenty-two**], was founded upon a carnal law which could be clearly seen and measured. However, Paul wrote in the tenth chapter of Hebrews, “*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices, which they offered continually, make the comers thereunto perfect.*⁴⁴” The Book of Mormon further clarifies that the law of Moses was a type and shadow to lead the people to a better hope and a more excellent promise in Christ. Read the following from Jarom 1:24-25 and Mosiah 1:110-113:

1:24 Wherefore, the prophets, and the priests, and the teachers, did labor diligently, exhorting with all long suffering, the people to diligence; teaching the law of Moses, and **the intent for which it was given;** **1:25 Persuading them to look forward unto the Messiah,** and believe in him to come, as though he already was.

1:110 Yet the Lord God saw that his people were a stiffnecked people, and he **appointed unto them a law**, even the law of Moses. **1:111** And many signs, and wonders, and types, and shadows shewed he unto them, concerning his coming: **1:112** And also holy prophets spake unto them concerning his coming; **1:113** And yet they hardened their hearts, and understood not that the law of Moses availeth nothing, **except it were through the atonement of his blood;**

The individuals in the Book of Mormon who were seeking for the truth of God through the law of Moses were able to clearly see that the law was a means to bring them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Likewise, as we discussed previously, the Promised Land which God promised to Abraham and his seed was a type and shadow of heavenly things. For we read in Acts, chapter seven, that Abraham did “not so much as set his foot on [it]; yet he [God] promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.”⁴⁵ The reader might ask, “How can God promise Abraham a Promised Land for an everlasting possession and yet not allow him to possess it?”

Interestingly, Abraham asked the Lord the same question in Genesis, chapter fifteen. “And Abram said, Lord God, how wilt thou give me this land for an everlasting inheritance? And the Lord said, Though thou was dead, yet *am I not able to give it thee?* And if thou shalt die, yet thou *shalt possess it*, for the day cometh, that the Son of Man [Jesus Christ] *shall live*; but how can he live if he be not dead? He must *first be quickened* [meaning resurrected]. And it came to pass that Abram looked forth and saw the days of the Son of Man, and was glad, and his soul found rest, and he believed in the Lord; and the Lord counted it unto him for righteousness.”⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Hebrews 10:1

⁴⁵ Acts 7:5

⁴⁶ Genesis 15:9-12

The Lord God promised Abraham an inheritance, and although Abraham did not necessarily receive that inheritance in the flesh, God promised that he would receive it through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This inheritance of a Promised Land is a type and shadow of that spiritual inheritance which God has promised to give to His sons and daughters. Moreover, because the children of Israel were of the seed of Abraham, they were physically born into the promise, just as those who have been spiritually begotten have been born into the Kingdom. Therefore, when Jesus said to the Pharisees that the Kingdom does not come with observation, He was explaining that although the Kingdom is not seen through the natural eyes, the things of truth bear witness of its spiritual nature. Wherefore, Jesus said to Caiaphas, "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from hence.⁴⁷"

It is for this very reason that Jesus spoke in parables. While many people believe that Jesus taught in parables in order to make the message easier for people to understand, Jesus told His disciples in Matthew, chapter thirteen, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever receiveth, to him shall be given, and he shall have *more abundance*; But whosoever continueth not to receive, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.⁴⁸" Jesus preached in parables so that those who would not seek for truth would be blinded by it, while the others who loved the truth and sought for the Kingdom of God would be able understand the invisible, or in other words spiritual, truths by those things which were clearly seen. Please read the following from Matthew 13:12-16 and 33-34:

13:12 Therefore speak I to them in parables; because they, seeing, **see not**; and hearing, they **hear not**; **neither do they understand.** **13:13** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias concerning them, which saith, **13:14** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

13:15 But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. And blessed are you because these things are come unto you, **that you might understand them.** **13:16** And verily, I say unto you, many righteous prophets have desired to see these days which you see, and have not seen them; and to hear that which you hear, and have not heard.

13:33 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitudes in parables; and without a parable spake he **not unto them,** **13:34** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been **kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

When Nicodemus heard that a man must be born again to inherit the Kingdom of God, he attempted to rationalize and understand Jesus's response through physical means. Thereby Nicodemus asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be

⁴⁷ John 18:36

⁴⁸ Matthew 13:9-11

born?⁴⁹" Jesus responded with a parable, saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born of water, and the Spirit*, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, *is spirit*. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but *canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one* who is born of the Spirit.⁵⁰" In the Lord's parable, He explained to Nicodemus that being born into the Kingdom of God by the water and by the Spirit is just like the wind. No one knows where the gust of wind originates from nor where it ends up, instead we only understand that the wind simply is.

Nevertheless, God has given mankind the understanding through His word and by the power of the Holy Ghost that His Kingdom is, was, and will be, and that the only way by which an individual can enter into the Kingdom is through the straight and narrow gate by which Jesus walked. The Kingdom of God is not built up by the hands or bricks of men, but by the power of the Holy Ghost which testifies of the truth to every man, woman, and child that loves the truth and seeks for it, that they must repent and be born again. "Now when they heard this, they were *pricked* in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, *what shall we do?* Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized *every one of you* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the *promise* is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.⁵¹" Please read the following Scriptures from Luke 24:43-48 and Moroni 9:6:

24:43 And he [Jesus] said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you, that all things **must be fulfilled** which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me. **24:44** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **24:45** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; **24:46** And that repentance and remission of sins **should be preached in his name among all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. **24:47** And ye are witnesses of these things. **24:48** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you

9:6 And now my beloved son, notwithstanding their hardness, let us labor diligently; for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation; **for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay**, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and **rest out souls in the kingdom of God.**

Walk Uprightly in the Kingdom of God

The Lord has said that all men everywhere must repent and be born of the water and of the Spirit in order for us to become the sons and daughters of God and to enter in through the gate of His spiritual Kingdom. In doing so, we are adopted into the fold of God and have become joint heirs of eternal life. "And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all

⁴⁹ John 3:4

⁵⁰ John 3:5-8

⁵¹ Acts 2:38-39

is done?⁵²" The answer to this question is undeniably no as Jesus Christ Himself said that we both ought to walk and to live even as He did. This is why the Lord said, "For the world cannot receive that which ye *yourselves, are not able to bear*; wherefore ye shall not give your pearls unto them, lest they turn again and *rend you*.⁵³" If those individuals who have entered into a covenant with the Lord and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost cannot bear the mysteries of the Kingdom, how can those who have not done so bear them? In particular, Jesus warned that if the sons and daughters of God do cast the pearls of the Kingdom before the world, the world might turn and tempt the citizens of the Kingdom to forsake their covenant by saying even as the disciples did after Jesus explained that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God, "Who then can be saved?"⁵⁴" Please read how Jesus responded by reading the following Scripture from Matthew 19:26-29:

19:26 But Jesus beheld their thoughts, and said unto them, ***With men this is impossible***; but if they will **forsake all things for my sake**, ***with God whatsoever things I speak are possible***. **19:27** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? **19:28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that **ye who have followed me, shall**, in the resurrection, when the Son of Man shall come sitting on the throne of his glory, ye shall also sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **19:29** And every one that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, **for my name's sake**, shall receive a hundred-fold, and ***shall inherit everlasting life***.

Life within the Kingdom of God requires us to keep all of commandments of God, to embrace the truth with all our heart, and to have our eye single to the glory of God. In so doing, we have the everlasting promise, that Zion, the city of God, shall rend the heavens and shall have place on the earth until the end comes [read Genesis 9:21-23]. Only those sons and daughters of the covenant, who live uprightly with a testimony of Jesus Christ and Zion within their soul, will be able to abide the day of the Lord. When the Pharisees asked Jesus regarding the truth of marriage, He said unto them, "All cannot receive this saying; it is not for them *save to whom it is given*. For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs which were made eunuchs of men; and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive, let him receive my sayings."⁵⁵"

Peter explained the coming of the Lord as a day "in the which the heavens shall shake, and the earth also shall tremble and the mountains shall melt, and pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be filled with fervent heat; the earth also shall be filled, and the corruptible works which are therein shall be burned up. If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons *ought ye to be* in holy conduct and godliness, looking unto, and preparing for the day of the coming of the Lord

⁵² 2 Nephi 13:27

⁵³ Matthew 7:11

⁵⁴ Matthew 19:25

⁵⁵ Matthew 19:11-12

wherein the corruptible things of the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the mountains shall melt with fervent heat?⁵⁶" The answer is found in the Psalms 24:1-5:

24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
24:2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. **24:3** Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or **who shall stand in his holy place?** **24:4** He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. **24:5** He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

In order to establish the cause of Zion and to receive the gift of eternal life, it is imperative that we walk uprightly within the Kingdom God, which is accomplished by keeping those same principles and commandments that we first followed in order to enter into it. God said because of our transgressions, "Ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be sanctified from all sin; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory. For, by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified; and by the blood ye are sanctified.⁵⁷"

By the Water Ye Keep the Commandment

In Matthew, chapter nineteen, a rich young ruler approached Jesus and asked, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?⁵⁸" The Master responded by giving the young man two distinct answers. Firstly Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments,⁵⁹" and secondly He said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go, sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me.⁶⁰" It is important to understand that Jesus taught that the only way to "enter into life" was to keep the commandments of God, which is also the first step we must take in order to enter into life in the Kingdom, "For, by the water ye keep the commandment."

In the Doctrine and Covenants, Section Seventy-Six, we read that those who receive eternal life with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost "are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given, that by *keeping the commandments*, they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins.⁶¹" God told Adam from the very beginning, that no unclean thing can dwell in the Kingdom of God, or dwell in His presence. Therefore, how can a person enter into such a Kingdom unless they are cleansed from all iniquity? Hence, we must first be baptized by the water. However, being washed of our sins is not enough to inherit the Kingdom of God, but we must remain clean as well.

Alma testified that all men everywhere, "must repent, and be born again: for the Spirit saith, If ye are not born again, ye can not inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be baptized unto

⁵⁶ 2 Peter 3:10-12

⁵⁷ Genesis 6:62-63

⁵⁸ Matthew 19:16

⁵⁹ Matthew 19:17

⁶⁰ Matthew 19:21

⁶¹ DC 76:5b

repentance, that you may be *washed from your sins*, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness...Come and fear not, and *lay aside every sin*, which easily doth beset you...Yea, come and go forth, and shew unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins, and enter into a covenant with him *to keep his commandments*, and witness it unto him this day, *by going into the waters of baptism*; and whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God *from thenceforth*...he shall have eternal life.⁶²"

Alma taught that for an individual to enter into a covenant with God, they first must be willing to repent of their sins, second, they must be cleansed of their sins by going into the waters of baptism, and third they must keep the commandments of God from thenceforth, meaning from that time forward. Only then shall an individual receive eternal life. By being baptized unto repentance, we are fulfilling the first step, just as Jesus taught the rich young ruler, "If thou wilt *enter into life*, keep the commandments." However, if we desire to receive eternal life, not only must we be cleansed by the water, but we must go on to perfection by laying aside every sin as King Laman did. "The king did bow down before the Lord, upon his knees; yea, even he did prostrate himself upon the earth, and cried mightily, saying, O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; And if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away *all my sins to know thee*, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day."⁶³"

After the Anti-Nephi-Lehi's, who were a warlike people, received the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obtained a remission of their sins, they made a covenant with God to bury their weapons of war deep in the earth for the fear of staining their souls again. "Yea, I say unto you, As the Lord liveth, as many of the Lamanites as believed in their preaching, and were converted unto the Lord, never did fall away, for they became a righteous people: They did lay down the weapons of their *rebellion*, that they did not fight against God *any more*, neither against any of their brethren."⁶⁴" Please read the words of their King from Alma 14:34-38 and 46:

14:34 Now my best beloved brethren, since God hath taken away our stains and our swords have become bright, then let us stain our swords *no more* with the blood of our brethren: **14:35** Behold, I say unto you, Nay, let us retain our swords, that they be not stained with the blood of our brethren: **14:36** For perhaps if we should stain our swords again, *they can no more be washed bright* through the blood of the Son of our great God, which shall be shed for the atonement of our sins. **14:37** And the great God has had mercy on us, and made these things known unto us, that we might not perish: **14:38** Yea, and he has made these things known unto us beforehand, because **he loveth our souls as well as he loveth our children**...**14:46** And thus we see that when these Lamanites were brought to believe and to know the truth, they were firm, and would suffer even unto death, *rather than commit sin*.

For mankind to inherit eternal life with God, which is a place without sin, we must first be cleansed from all unrighteousness by going down into the waters of baptism. Nevertheless, this is not all. The Anti-

⁶² Alma 5:24-28

⁶³ Alma 13:52-53

⁶⁴ Alma 14:11-12

Nephi-Lehi's demonstrated in their covenant with the Lord that we must also keep our garments spotless until the last day, which can only be accomplished through keeping the commandments of God after we have received them. If we do not keep our garments spotless, how then can we enter into the presence of God?

While praying for the disciples, Jesus said, "I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine...And for their sakes *I sanctify myself*, that they *also might be sanctified* through *the truth*. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be *one in us*; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be *made perfect in one*; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast *loved them*, as thou hast *loved me*.⁶⁵"

Jesus taught through His prayer, that the only way in which the sons and daughters of God can be made perfect is by becoming one through Him. We would ask the reader, how can we become one with Jesus Christ, and thus become one with God, if we still have sin in our life? Therefore, by the water we are able to enter into the gate through the cleansing of our sins, and by keeping the commandments of God we are able to remain spotless and inherit eternal life. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the *way of life*.⁶⁶"

By the Spirit Ye are Justified

In a letter to his son Moroni, Mormon wrote that "the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the *fulfilling* the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, *cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost*, which Comforter filleth with hope and *perfect love*, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.⁶⁷"

Once again we read that the first step for mankind to enter into the Kingdom of God is through baptism "unto the fulfilling the commandments." In so doing, God has promised that all those that enter in by the gate will receive a remission of sins, which is the cleansing of our soul from all unrighteousness. However, being cleansed of our sins is not enough for mankind to dwell with God and Christ in Celestial Glory and this is because of our fallen state.

It is important to remember that because of our transgressions "there was no means to reclaim men from this fallen state which man had brought upon himself, because of his *own disobedience*; Therefore, according to justice, the plan of redemption could not be brought about, only, on conditions of repentance of men in this probationary state; yea, this preparatory state; for except it were for these conditions, *mercy could not take effect* except it should destroy the work of justice. Now the work of

⁶⁵ John 17:9, 19-23

⁶⁶ Proverbs 6:23

⁶⁷ Moroni 8:29

justice *could not be destroyed*: if so God would cease to be God. And thus we see that all mankind were fallen, and they were in the *grasp of justice*; yea, the justice of God, which consigned them for ever to be cut off from his presence. 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.⁶⁸"

In other words, because of our own transgressions, there is nothing that we could ever do in order to come back into the presence of God, which caused mankind to be forever in the grasp of justice. Nevertheless, because of the atonement and the sacrifice of both God and Jesus Christ, justice was appeased on the conditions of repentance and by the plan of mercy. The plan of mercy was wrought not by anything that mankind has done, but because God is a God of love. Wherefore, there is nothing that we can ever do or say in order to fully repay the Lord for what He has done for our souls. King Benjamin declared, "If ye should serve him [God] with all your whole soul, yet ye would be *unprofitable* servants...And now, in the first place, he hath created you, and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto him. And secondly: he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you, for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; and therefore, he *hath paid you*. And ye are *still indebted* unto him; and are, and will be, *for ever and ever*; therefore, of what have ye to boast?⁶⁹"

Job's friend, Bildad, asked the question, "How then can man be justified with God?"⁷⁰" God has answered this question for all mankind, as He told Adam, "For...by the Spirit ye are justified." We read that through the remission of sins we also receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and it is the Holy Ghost which justifies mankind to the Father and the Son. The Lord told the latter day saints, "Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus, who was on the earth, and is to come, the beginning and the end; repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, according to the holy commandment, for the remission of sins; and whoso doeth this, shall receive the *gift of the Holy Ghost*, by the laying on of the hands of the elders of this church."⁷¹"

In Paul's first epistle to Timothy, he explained that even Jesus Christ was justified by the Holy Ghost, writing, "The pillar and ground of the truth is, (and without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness,) God was manifest in the flesh, *justified in the Spirit*, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."⁷²" In the ninth chapter of Hebrews we also read, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who *through the eternal Spirit* offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"⁷³"

It is only through the Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of Truth, that mankind is justified to enter into the gate of the Kingdom. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God...The Spirit

⁶⁸ Alma 19:94-97

⁶⁹ Mosiah 1:54 and 57-59

⁷⁰ Job 25:4

⁷¹ DC 49:2g-h

⁷² 1 Timothy 3:16

⁷³ Hebrews 9:14

itself beareth witness with our spirit, *that we are the children of God*...Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he [Jesus Christ] that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is *the mind of the Spirit*, because he [the Holy Ghost] maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.⁷⁴" It is the Spirit of Truth who testifies to Jesus Christ that we are living repentantly within our hearts all the days of our life, and this is done so that the testimony of the Son of God might be alive in our soul and that all things might be gathered together in one through Jesus Christ. "But ye are not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*. And if Christ be in you, though the body shall die because of sin, yet the Spirit is life, because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him [God] that raised up Jesus from the dead, *dwell in you*, he that raised up Christ from the dead *shall also quicken* your mortal bodies by his Spirit that *dwelleteth in you*.⁷⁵" Please read the following Scripture from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 83:10-12b:

83:10c therefore, as I said unto mine apostles, I say unto you again, that every soul who believeth on your words, and is baptized by water for the remission of sins, **shall receive the Holy Ghost**; and these signs shall follow them that believe:

83:11a In my name they shall do many wonderful works; **83:11b** in my name they shall cast out devils: **83:11c** in my name they shall heal the sick: **83:11d** in my name they shall open the eyes of the blind, and unstopp the ears of the deaf: **83:11e** and the tongue of the dumb shall speak; **83:11f** and if any man shall administer poison unto them, it shall not hurt them: and the poison of a serpent shall not have power to harm them. **83:11g** But a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not boast themselves of these things, **neither speak them before the world**: for these things are given unto you for your profit and for salvation.

83:12a Verily, verily, I say unto you, They who believe not on your words, and are not baptized in water, in my name, for the remission of their sins, that they may receive the Holy Ghost, shall be damned, and **shall not come into my Father's kingdom**, where my Father and I am. **83:12b** And this revelation unto you, and commandment, is in force from this very hour upon all the world, and the gospel is unto all who have not received it.

Without the gift of the Holy Ghost, it is impossible to be justified to live in the Kingdom of God. According to the 1828 Webster's Dictionary the word justify means "to prove or show to be just, or conformable to law, right, justice, propriety or duty; to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right. We cannot justify disobedience or ingratitude to our Maker. We cannot justify insult or incivility to our fellow men. Intemperance, lewdness, profaneness and dueling are in no case to be justified." If those who have been baptized for a remission of sins have been justified to walk into the gate by the Spirit, then what manner of men ought we to be in order prove to God that we are willing to be His sons and daughters?

⁷⁴ Romans 8:14, 16, and 26-27

⁷⁵ Romans 8:9-11

As read previously, Paul clearly warned us that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God, writing, "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are *justified* in the name of the Lord Jesus, and *by the Spirit of our God*... Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot [meaning the world or the church of the devil]? God forbid. What! Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord *is one spirit*. Flee fornication [meaning both spiritual and temporal]. Every sin that a man committeth is against the body of Christ [the Church], and he who committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What! Know ye not that your body is the *temple of the Holy Ghost* which is in you, which ye have of God, and *ye are not your own?* For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.⁷⁶" Again, how can we become one with God and Jesus Christ unless we walk after the Spirit? Please read from Galatians 5:16-25:

5:16 This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye **shall not fulfill** the lust of the flesh. **5:17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **5:18** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **5:20** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, **5:21** Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **5:23** Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law. **5:24** And they that are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. **5:25** If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit**.

It is by the water that we keep the commandment, and it is by the Spirit that we are justified. Both are needed to first enter into the Kingdom, and both are needed to inherit eternal life. Jesus Christ has promised that if we appeal unto the Holy Ghost not only will the Spirit of the Lord comfort us, but He will guide us into all truth and seal us to God. "And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the *Holy Spirit for their guide*, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but *shall abide the day*, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation, for the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their King and their lawgiver."⁷⁷"

⁷⁶ 1 Corinthians 6:11 and 15-20

⁷⁷ DC 45:10b-d

Therefore, it is crucial that we “grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption,⁷⁸ but that through sanctifying ourselves He will have place within us to guide us into all truth so that we might press into it. In the third book of Nephi, Jesus told the Nephites, “Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified *by the reception* of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand *spotless* before me at the last day.⁷⁹ Please read the following Scripture passage from Alma 16:227-238:

16:227 Yea, I would that ye would come forth and **harden not your hearts any longer**; for behold, now is the time, and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, **immediately** shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you. **16:228** For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

16:229 And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; **16:230** For after this day of life, which is **given us to prepare for eternity**, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed.

16:231 Ye can not say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. **16:232** Nay, ye can not say this; **for that same spirit** which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that **eternal world**. **16:233** For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance, even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the **spirit of the devil**, and he doth seal you his; **16:234** Therefore the Spirit of the Lord **hath withdrawn from you**, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.

16:235 And this I know, because the Lord has said, he **dwellet not in unholy temples**, but in the hearts of the righteous **doth he dwell**; **16:236** Yea, and he has also said, that the **righteous shall sit down in his kingdom**, to go no more out; but their garments should be made white, through the blood of the Lamb. **16:237** And now my beloved brethren, I desire that ye should remember these things, and that ye should work out your salvation with fear before God, and that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ; that **ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost, but that ye receive it**, and take upon you the name of Christ; that ye humble yourselves even to the dust, and worship God in whatsoever place ye may be in, in spirit and in truth; **16:238** And that ye live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you; yea, and I also exhort you my brethren, that **ye be watchful unto prayer continually**, that ye may not be led away by the temptation of the devil, that he may not overpower you, that ye may not become his subjects at the last day: for behold, he rewardeth you no good thing.

⁷⁸ Ephesians 4:30

⁷⁹ 3 Nephi 12:33

By the Blood Ye are Sanctified

God told Adam that in order for mankind to enter into the Kingdom of God, we must first be baptized by the water for a remission of sins and be baptized by the Spirit for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Both of these are crucial for an individual to be cleansed of all transgressions and to be justified to God and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Nonetheless, these commandments are both founded and reliant upon the atoning blood of the Only Begotten Son. It is only through the blood of the Savior that we are redeemed and reconciled to God.

In the first chapter of Mosiah, King Benjamin spoke to his people concerning the coming of the Son of God and how their salvation was not reliant upon the law of Moses, but on the atonement of Jesus Christ. “Yet the Lord God saw that his people were a stiffnecked people, and he appointed unto them a law, even the law of Moses...And yet they hardened their hearts, and understood not that the law of Moses availeth nothing, except it were through the *atonement of his blood*...For behold as in Adam, or by *nature* they fall, even so the blood of Christ *atoneth* for their sins. And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. For behold, he judgeth, and his judgment is just, and the infant perisheth not, that dieth in his infancy; But men drink damnation to their own souls, except they humble themselves, and become as little children, and believe that salvation was, and is, and is to come, *in and through the atoning blood of Christ*, the Lord Omnipotent: For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, *through the atonement of Christ*, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.⁸⁰”

By our own transgressions, mankind was spiritually and temporally separated from the presence of God, which placed us in a fallen state. Thereby, the Lord commanded Adam, “Ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be *cleansed by blood*, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be *sanctified from all sin*; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory.⁸¹” Without the atoning blood of Jesus, mankind could not be cleansed by the water or justified by the Spirit, for as John the Revelator testified, “Thou [Jesus] wast slain, and hast *redeemed us to God* by *thy blood* out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.⁸²”

Through the Scriptures, we find that the blood of Jesus Christ not only sanctifies mankind to enter into the Kingdom of God and to receive the gift of eternal life, but that His blood also cleanses us and justifies us so that we can become one in Him. In the first epistle of John, we read, “If we walk in the light, as he [God] is in the light, we have fellowship *one with another*, and the blood of Jesus Christ his

⁸⁰ Mosiah 1:110, 113, 115-120

⁸¹ Genesis 6:62

⁸² Revelation 5:9

Son cleanseth us from all sin.⁸³" Again, from Romans, chapter three, we read, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Therefore being *justified* only by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.⁸⁴"

Therefore, we read that it is through the blood of Jesus that we are cleansed, that we are justified, and that we are sanctified so that we might be redeemed and inherit the Kingdom. "And now if Christ had not come into the world, speaking of things to come, as though they had already come, there could have been *no redemption*. And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death, that the grave should have no victory, and that death should have no sting, there could have been *no resurrection*.⁸⁵" In other words, without the blood of Jesus Christ the plan of mercy could not be brought about, and "if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God. But God ceaseth not to be God, and mercy claimeth the penitent, and mercy cometh because of the atonement; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead: and the resurrection of the dead *bringeth back men into the presence of God*; And thus they are *restored into his presence*; to be judged according to their works; according to the law and justice; for behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own; and thus, none but the truly penitent are saved.⁸⁶"

In order for mankind to inherit the Kingdom of God, we must first be born again into the Kingdom. However, this spiritual birth requires three principles, namely, the water, the Spirit, and the blood. It is imperative for the reader to understand that each of these oracles have been given to the children of men only through the grace, mercy, justice, and love of our Heavenly Father, and without them, not only could there be no redemption made, but God would cease to be God. If God therefore has given these commandments so that we could be made dead to sin and alive in Christ because of His precious blood, "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?⁸⁷" Please read from Alma 3:41-62:

3:41 And now I ask of you, my brethren, How will any of you feel, if ye shall stand before the bar of God, having your garments stained with blood, and all manner of filthiness? **3:42** Behold, what will these things testify against you? **3:43** Behold, will they not testify that ye are murderers, yea, and also that ye are guilty of all manner of wickedness? **3:44** Behold, my brethren, do ye suppose that such an one can have a place to sit down in the kingdom of God, with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, and also all the holy prophets, whose garments are cleansed, and are spotless, pure, and white? **3:45** I say unto you, Nay, except ye make our Creator a liar from the beginning, or suppose that he is a liar from the beginning, ye can not suppose that such can have place in the kingdom of heaven, but they shall be cast out, for they are the children of the kingdom of the devil.

⁸³ 1 John 1:7

⁸⁴ Romans 3:23-26

⁸⁵ Mosiah 8:79-80

⁸⁶ Alma 19:14-106

⁸⁷ Romans 6:2

3:46 And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now? **3:47** Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? **3:48** Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? **3:49** That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the **blood of Christ**, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? **3:50** Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God. **3:51** Behold ye must prepare quickly, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.

3:52 Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? **3:53** I say unto you, that such an one is not prepared, and I would that he should prepare quickly, for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless.

3:54 And again I say unto you, Is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions? **3:55** Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent, or he can not be saved; **3:56** Yea, even wo unto all ye workers of iniquity; repent, repent, for the Lord God hath spoken it.

3:57 Behold, ***he sendeth an invitation unto all men; for the arms of mercy are extended towards them***, and he saith, Repent, **and I will receive you**; **3:58** Yea, he saith, Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life; yea, ye shall eat and drink of the bread and the waters of life **freely**; **3:59** Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire; **3:60** For behold, the time is at hand that whosoever bringeth forth not good fruit, or whosoever doeth not the works of righteousness, the same have cause to wail and mourn.

3:62 Behold, I say unto you, that the good shepherd doth call you; yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the name of Christ;

God commanded Adam to teach all of his children that everyone must be born again by the water, the Spirit, and the blood, not only so that mankind might enter into the Kingdom through the gate, but also so that they might endure to the end in order to inherit eternal life. However, as discussed previously, the Kingdom is not just meant for us as individuals, but for it is meant for the whole world, so that God can gather all things in one under Jesus Christ. Please read 1 Corinthians 15:22-28:

15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **15:23** But every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. **15:24** Afterward cometh the end, when he shall have **delivered up the kingdom to God**, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. **15:25** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. **15:26** The last enemy, death, shall be destroyed. **15:27** For he saith, When it is manifest that he hath put all things under his feet, and that all things are put under, he is excepted of the Father who did put all things under him. **15:28** And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, **that God may be all in all**.

It is only by becoming one with God and Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Ghost that we can come to experience a fullness of joy in the Celestial Glory, which is the desire of God for each and every soul. Therefore, the Lord God has given unto the children of men that they must be born again. Moreover, in order to dwell in the presence of God, which is a place without sin, we must enter into life and go onto perfection by keeping the commandments of God; we must be justified and sealed to the day of redemption by walking and living with the Spirit; and we must be cleansed and sanctified to inherit eternal life by the blood of Jesus Christ. "Whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God, in a state of happiness which hath no end.⁸⁸"

Conclusion

Through the testimonies of Adam, Nicodemus, and Alma, we have read that God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost have all testified that every man and woman must repent and be baptized in the name of the Son, and thus mankind can be born again of the water and of the Spirit into the Kingdom of God. It is by this adoption into the fold of God that we receive the everlasting promise that if we will forsake all that we have and endure to the end we will inherit eternal life. Please read from 1 John 5:3-8:

5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. **5:4** For whatsoever is **born of God** overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. **5:5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? **5:6** This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but **by water and blood**. And it is **the Spirit** that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. **5:7** For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. **5:8** And there are three that bear witness in earth, **the Spirit**, and **the water**, and **the blood**; and **these three agree in one**.

However, as we have discussed, the purpose of the Kingdom is not just to benefit us as individuals, but rather that through the Kingdom of God all the nations of the earth might be blessed. Therefore, it is the will of God that those who have entered into a covenant with Him and have become His sons and daughters would walk uprightly within the Kingdom and proclaim to all nations, tongues, and people the mercy, truth, and justice of the Holy Messiah, who is, who has, and who will come to bring salvation to all men who will repent and believe on His name. In conclusion, please read Doctrine and Covenants, Section Sixty-Five:

65:1a Hearken, and lo, a voice as of one sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth; yea, whose voice is unto men, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **65:1b** The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone [the Kingdom of God] which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth; **65:1c** yea, a voice crying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,

⁸⁸ Mormon 3:29

prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom; **65:1d** pray unto the Lord; call upon his holy name; make known his wonderful works among the people, call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth; **65:1e** that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth; **65:1f** wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, may be glorified in heaven, so on earth, that thy enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen