



THE COMMANDMENTS

What do I need to do, or what can I do to help build the kingdom of God?

Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.

DC 11:3

For my soul delighteth in plainness: for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding: for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding.

2 Nephi 13:4-5

How many Commandments are there?

22:35 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? **22:36** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **22:37** This is the first and great commandment. **22:38** And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. **22:39** On these **two commandments** hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:35-39

Class on Commandments

1. Why do we have Commandments?
2. The Purpose of Commandments.
3. The Commandments.

We love him, because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19**

Why do we have Commandments?

He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is Love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:8-10

Agency

1:100 Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other.

2 Nephi 1:100

What must we experience in order to have agency?

Agency: 2 Nephi 1:81-87

1:81 For it must needs be, that there is an **opposition in all things**. **1:82** If not so... righteousness could not be brought to pass; neither wickedness; neither holiness nor misery; neither good nor bad. **1:83** Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one; **1:84** Wherefore, if it should be one body, it must needs remain as dead, having no life, neither death nor corruption, nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility. **1:85** Wherefore, it must needs have been created for a thing of nought; **1:86** Wherefore, there would have been no purpose in the end of its creation. **1:87** Wherefore, this thing must needs destroy the wisdom of God, and his eternal purposes; and also, the power, and the mercy, and the justice of God.

Agency: 2 Nephi 1:88-92

1:88 And if ye shall say there is no law, ye shall also say there is no sin. **1:89** And if ye shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no righteousness. **1:90** And if there be no righteousness, there be no happiness. **1:91** And if there be no righteousness nor happiness, there be no punishment nor misery. **1:92** And if these things are not, there is no God. **1:93** And if there is no God, we are not, neither the earth, for there could have been no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away.

Agency: 2 Nephi 1:93-99

1:94 And now...I speak unto you these things, for your profit and learning: **1:95** For there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them is; **1:96** Both things to act, and things to be acted upon; **1:97** And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; **1:98** Even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter; **1:99** Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself.

Agency: 2 Nephi 1:81-99

Summary

- Without opposition everything would be compound in one, which destroys the wisdom of God.
- If there was no law, there could be no sin.
- If there was no sin, there could be no righteousness or happiness.
- To have agency we must have opposition, and in order to have opposition we must have a just law.

“Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.” 2 Nephi 1:115

Plan of Restoration: Alma 19:64-67

19:64 I say unto thee...that the plan of restoration is requisite with the justice of God; for it is requisite that all things should be restored to their proper order. **19:65** Behold it is requisite and just, according to the power and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man should be restored to its body, and that every part of the body should be restored to itself. **19:66** And it is requisite with the justice of God, that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good; **19:67** And if their works are evil, they shall be restored unto him for evil: therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order; everything to its natural frame; mortality raised to immortality; corruption to incorruption; raised to endless happiness, to inherit the kingdom of God, or to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil;

Plan of Restoration: Alma 19:68-71

19:68 The one on the one hand, the other on the other; the one raised to happiness, according to his desires of happiness; or good, according to his desires of good; and the other to evil, according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so shall he have his reward of evil, when the night cometh. **19:69** And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his days, even so shall he be rewarded unto righteousness. **19:70** These are they that are redeemed of the Lord; yea, these are they that are taken out, that are delivered from that endless night of darkness; and thus they stand or fall; for behold, they are their own judges, whether to do good or do evil. **19:71** Now the decrees of God are unalterable; therefore the way is prepared, that whosoever will, may walk therein and be saved.

Plan of Restoration: Alma 19:64-71

Summary

- The plan of restoration is an absolute must.
- Man is required to be restored both soul and body to their proper order.
- The plan of restoration requires that we be judged according to our works.
- We are restored on conditions of repentance.

“There was a time granted unto man, to repent, yea, a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God.”
Alma 19:84 (Alma 9:39-41...“a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state...”)

Preparatory State: Alma 19:85-88

19:85 For behold, if Adam had put forth his hand immediately, and partook of the tree of life, he would have lived for ever, according to the word of God, having no space for repentance; **19:86** Yea, and also the word of God would have been void, and the great plan of salvation would have been **frustrated**. **19:87** But behold it was appointed unto man to die; therefore as they were cut off from the tree of life, they should be cut off from the face of the earth; and man became lost for ever; yea, they became fallen man. **19:88** And now we see by this, that 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.

Preparatory State: Alma 19:89-91

19:89 Now behold, it was not expedient that man should be reclaimed from this temporal death, for that **would destroy the great plan of happiness**; **19:90** Therefore, as the soul could never die, and the fall had brought upon all mankind a spiritual death as well as a temporal; that is, they were cut off from the presence of the Lord; therefore **it was expedient that mankind should be reclaimed from this spiritual death**; **19:91** Therefore as they had been carnal, sensual and devilish, by nature, this probationary state became a state for them to prepare; it became a preparatory state.

Preparatory State: Alma 19:85-91

Summary

- ❑ Mankind needed a space of time for repentance.
- ❑ It is appointed for man to die once (Heb 9:27).
- ❑ Man was both temporally and spiritually separated from God.
- ❑ It would destroy the great plan of happiness to be reclaimed from the temporal death, but the soul can never die.
- ❑ Thus, we are given a state to prepare to be reclaimed from the spiritual death.

“Therefore God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy, to appease the demand of justice.” Alma 19:97

Just Law Given: Alma 19:98-103

19:98 Now repentance could not come unto men, **except** there were a punishment, which also was as eternal as the life of the soul should be, affixed opposite to the plan of happiness, which was as eternal also as the life of the soul. **19:99** Now, how could a man repent, **except he should sin?** How could he sin, **if there was no law?** How could there be a law, save there was a punishment? **19:100** Now there was a punishment affixed, and a just law given, which brought remorse of conscience unto man. **19:101** Now if there was no law given, if a man murdered he should die, would he be afraid he should die if he should murder? **19:102** And also, if there was no law given against sin, **men would not be afraid to sin.** **19:103** And if there was no law given if men sinned, **what could justice do, or mercy either: for they would have no claim upon the creature.**

Just Law Given: Alma 19:104-106

19:104 But there is a law given and a punishment affixed, and **repentance granted**; which repentance, mercy claimeth: **otherwise**, justice claimeth the creature, and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God.

19:105 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**; **19:106** 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.

Just Law Given: Alma 19:98-106

Summary

- We cannot have a preparatory state with a law we cannot choose against, and we cannot have a preparatory state without a law to choose.
- We have our agency to choose to do good or evil.
- The law was founded on the atonement of Jesus Christ and the condition of repentance.
- If we did not have a law, or commandments, then we could not have agency and God's great plan of happiness would be destroyed.



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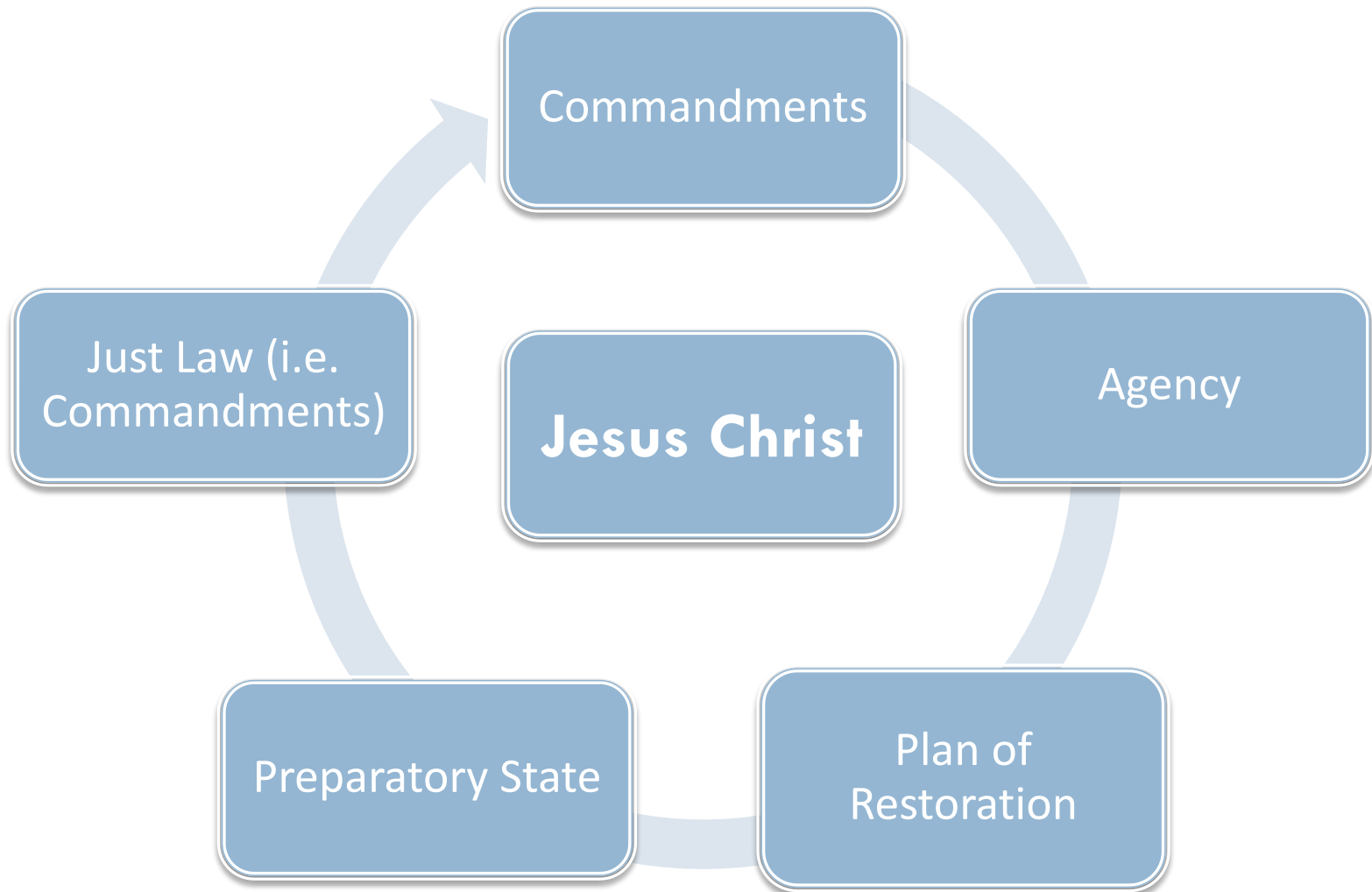
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One Eternal Round



The Purpose of Commandments

God Prepares a Way

Is there more to the Commandments than fulfilling our agency?

7:40 And in the garden of Eden gave I unto man his agency; and unto thy brethren have I said, and also gave commandment, that they should love one another; and that they should choose me their Father.

Genesis 7:40

How do we truly love God with all our heart, soul, and mind?

God Prepares a Way

- **1:65** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father, I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them. (1 Nephi 1:65)
- **3:4** And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. **3:5** And the **Lord direct your hearts into the love of God**, and into the patient waiting for Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:4-5)

A Mighty Change in our Heart

- **3:11** Behold, he changed their hearts; yea, he waked them out of a deep sleep, and they **awoke unto God**...**3:23** And according to his faith there was a **mighty change** wrought in his heart. (Alma 3:11 and 23)
- **14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments...**15:10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love (John 14:15 and John 15:10)
- **13:3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it **profiteth me nothing**. (1 Corinthians 13:3)
- **4:8** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity **preventeth a multitude of sins**. (1 Peter 4:8)

Broken Heart: 2 Nephi 1:66-72

1:66 And the way is prepared from the fall of man, and salvation is free. **1:67** And men are **instructed sufficiently, that they know good from evil.** [See Moroni 7:10-16] **1:68** And the law is given unto men. **1:69** And by the law, no flesh is justified, or, by the law, men are cut off. **1:70** Yea, by the **temporal law**, they were cut off; and also by the **spiritual law** they perish from that which is good, and become miserable for ever. **1:71** Wherefore, **redemption cometh in and through the holy Messiah:** for he is full of grace and truth. **1:72** Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a **broken heart and a contrite spirit;** and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.

God Prepares a Way

- **14:5** Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? **14:6** Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. **14:7** If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. (John 14:5-7)
- **2:3** And hereby we do know that **we know him**, **if we keep his commandments**. **2:4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **2:5** But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the **love of God perfected**; hereby know we that we are in him. (1 John 2:3-5)

Love Perfected: 1 John 4:10-14

4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. **4:11** Beloved, **if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.** **4:12** No man hath seen God at any time, except them who believe. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is **perfected** in us. **4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. **4:14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Love Perfected: 1 John 4:15-21

4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, **God dwelleth in him, and he in God.** **4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. **4:17** **Herein is our love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world. **4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. **4:19** **We love him, because he first loved us.** **4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? **4:21** And this commandment have we from him, **That he who loveth God love his brother also.**

Love Perfected: Moroni 7:52-53

7:52 Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them.

7:53 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart**, that ye may be filled with this love which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is, that we may have this hope, **that we may be purified even as he is pure**. Amen.

This is Love

3:100 But what could I have done more in my vineyard? **3:101** Have I slackened my hand, that I have not nourished it? **3:102** Nay; I have nourished it, and have I digged about it, and I have pruned it, and I have dunged it; and I have stretched forth mine hand almost all the day long; and the end draweth nigh...**3:109** what could I have done more for my vineyard? (Jacob 3:100-102, 109)

This is Love

5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. (1 John 5:3) **1:6** And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. (2 John 1:6)

The Purpose of Commandments

Therefore verily thus saith the Lord, Let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion, **THE PURE IN HEART.**

DC 94:5c



THE COMMANDMENTS

The Law of Moses

The Law of Moses

Behold, I say unto you, that the law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses. Behold, I am he that gave the law, and I am he who covenanted with my people Israel; therefore, the law in me is fulfilled, for I have come to fulfill the law; therefore, it hath an end. Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, for as many as have not been fulfilled in me, verily, I say unto you, shall all be fulfilled

3 Nephi 7:5-7

What law was given first?

- **2:7** Brethren, I write a new commandment unto you, **but it is the same commandment which ye had from the beginning.** The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. **2:8** Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing **was of old ordained of God**; and is true in him, and in you; because the darkness is past in you, and the true light now shineth. (1 John 2:7-8)
- **10:1** At that time the Lord said unto me, Hew thee two other tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me upon the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. **10:2** And I will write on the tables the words that were on the first tables, which thou breakest, **save the words of the everlasting covenant of the holy priesthood**, and thou shalt put them in the ark. (Deuteronomy 10:1-2)

What law was given first?

34:1 And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two other tables of stone, like unto the first, and I will write upon them also, the words of the law, according as they were written at the first on the tables which thou brakest; but it shall not be according to the first, for **I will take away** the priesthood out of their midst; therefore my holy order, and the ordinances thereof, **shall not go before them**; for my presence shall not go up in their midst, **lest I destroy them.** **34:2** But I will give unto them the law as at the first, but it shall be after the **law of a carnal commandment**; for I have sworn in my wrath, that they shall not enter into my presence, into my rest, in the days of their pilgrimage. Therefore do as I have commanded thee, and be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me, in the top of the mount.

Exodus 34:1-2

The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20

- **20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- **20:4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- **20:7** Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain.
- **20:8** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- **20:12** Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives thee.
- **20:13** Thou shalt not kill.
- **20:14** Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- **20:15** Thou shalt not steal.
- **20:16** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- **20:17** Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

The Two Great Commandments

- **6:4** Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord; **6:5** And **thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.** **6:6** And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)
- **19:18** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou **shalt love thy neighbor as thyself**; I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:18)

The Sacrifices of Israel

- **15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offering and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**...(1 Samuel 15:22)
- **1:11** To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord; **I am full of the burnt offerings** of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and **I delight not in the blood of bullocks**, or of lambs, or of he goats. **1:12** When ye come to appear before me, **who hath required this at your hand**, to tread my courts? **1:13** Bring no more vain oblations; **incense is an abomination unto me**; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. **1:14** Your new moons and your appointed feasts **my soul hateth**; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. **1:15** And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hand are full of blood (Isaiah 1:11-15)

The Sacrifices of Israel

- **7:21** Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. **7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them** in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices; **7:23** But this thing commanded I them, saying, **Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people**; and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. (Jeremiah 7:21-23)
- **40:6** Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened; burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required (Psalms 40:6)
- **51:16 For thou desirest not sacrifice**; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offering. **51:17** The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psalms 51:16-17)

The Purpose of the Law of Moses

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster until Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under the schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ

Galatians 3:23-26

The Intent For Which it Was Given

- **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. (Jarom 1:24-25)
- **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**; (Mosiah 1:110-113)

The Intent For Which it Was Given

- **14:74**...and they did walk in the ways of the Lord, and did observe to keep his commandments, and his statutes, yea, and they did keep the Law of Moses; for it was expedient that they should keep the Law of Moses as yet, **for it was not all fulfilled.** **14:75** But notwithstanding the Law of Moses, they did look forward to the coming of Christ, concerning that **the Law of Moses was a type of his coming**, and believing that they must keep those outward performances, until the time that he should be revealed unto them. **14:76** Now they did not suppose that salvation came by the Law of Moses; but **the Law of Moses did serve to strengthen their faith in Christ**; **14:77** And thus they did retain a hope through faith, unto eternal salvation, relying upon the spirit of prophecy, which spake of those things to come. (Alma 14:74-77)