

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

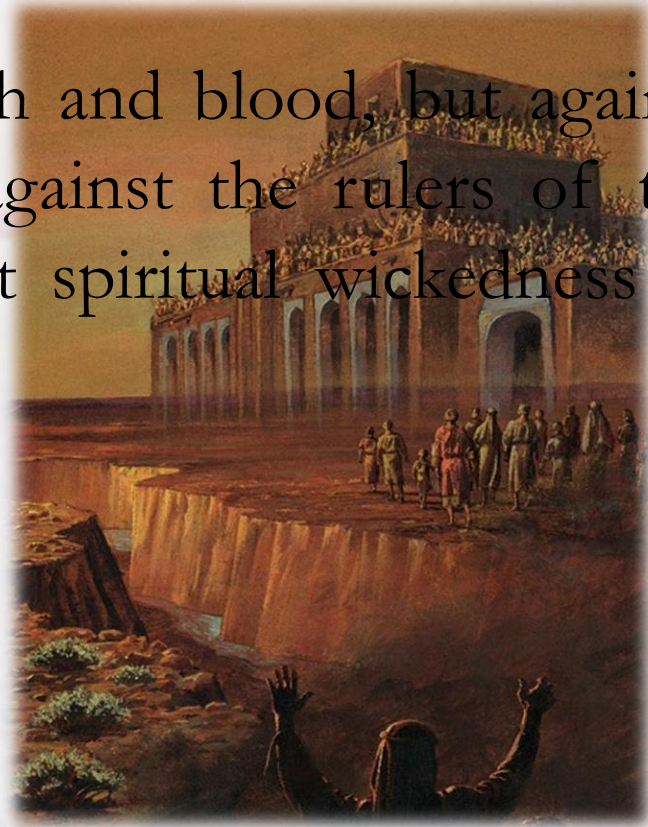
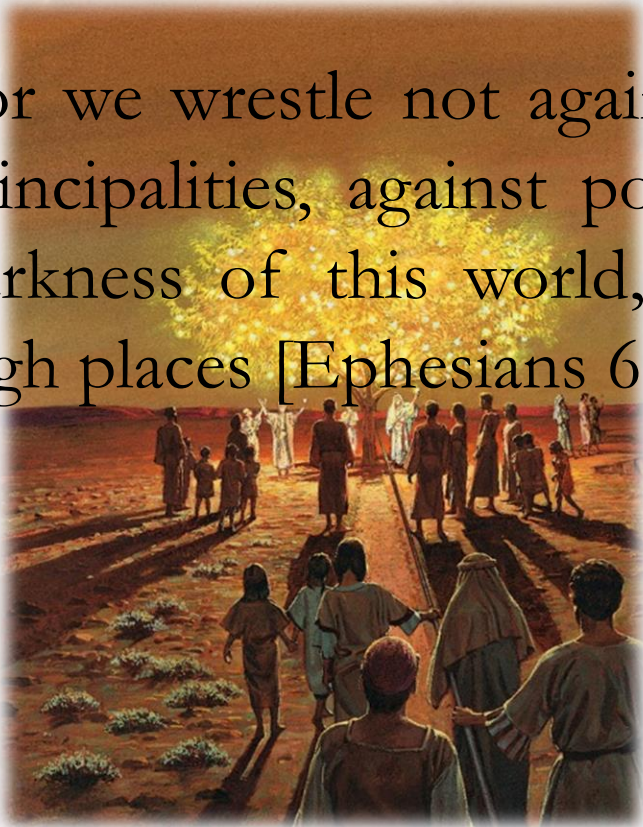
The Light of Jesus Christ

THE LIGHT AND DARK

Good

Evil

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [Ephesians 6:12]





Joseph Smith, Jr. explained that each of us have two forces warring in our soul. However, this is part of God's great plan of happiness, because without darkness we could never be able to comprehend the light of Jesus Christ and the message of salvation

What is Light?

“That ethereal agent or matter which makes objects perceptible to the sense of seeing, but the particles of which are separately invisible.”



What is Light?

If only light existed would we be able to understand or appreciate it?

Likewise, if only darkness existed, would we be able to see anything at all?



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, my first born in the wilderness, 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.

The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. [DC 90:6a]

Jesus said, “I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world...and they have kept *thy word*. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them *the words which thou gavest me*; and they have received them...” [John 17:4-8]

14:4 Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

14:5 Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, **but must perish in the**

dark. **14:6** For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do. **14:7** Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ; and there will be no more doctrine given, until after he shall manifest

himself unto you in the flesh. **14:8** And when he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh, the things which he shall say unto you, shall ye observe to do. **14:9** And now I, Nephi, can not say more: the Spirit stoppeth mine utterance, and I am left to mourn because of the

unbelief, and the wickedness, and the ignorance, and the stiffneckedness of men: for they will not search knowledge, nor understand great knowledge, when it is given unto them **in**

plainness, even as plain as word can be. [2 Nephi 14:4-9]

DID GOD CREATE EVIL TOO?

Proverbs 16:4

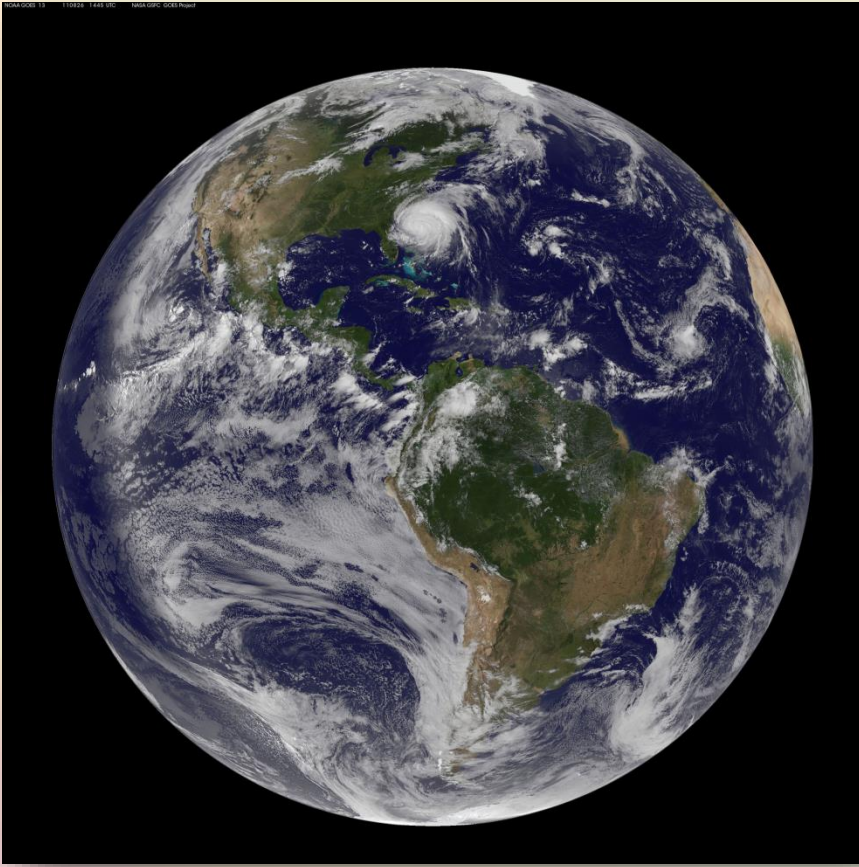
The Lord hath made all things
for himself: yea, he is dark-
ness; I make peace, and
create evil: if ye shall say there
is no law, ye shall say there
is no sin. And if ye shall say
there is no sin, ye shall
say there is no righteousness.
And if there be
no righteousness, there be
no happiness. [2 Nephi
1:88-90]

Isaiah 45:7

I form the light, and create
darkness; I make peace, and
create evil: I the Lord do
all these things.

Genesis 6:57-58

And the Lord spake unto Adam, saying, Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin [meaning 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.



THE LIGHT AND DARK

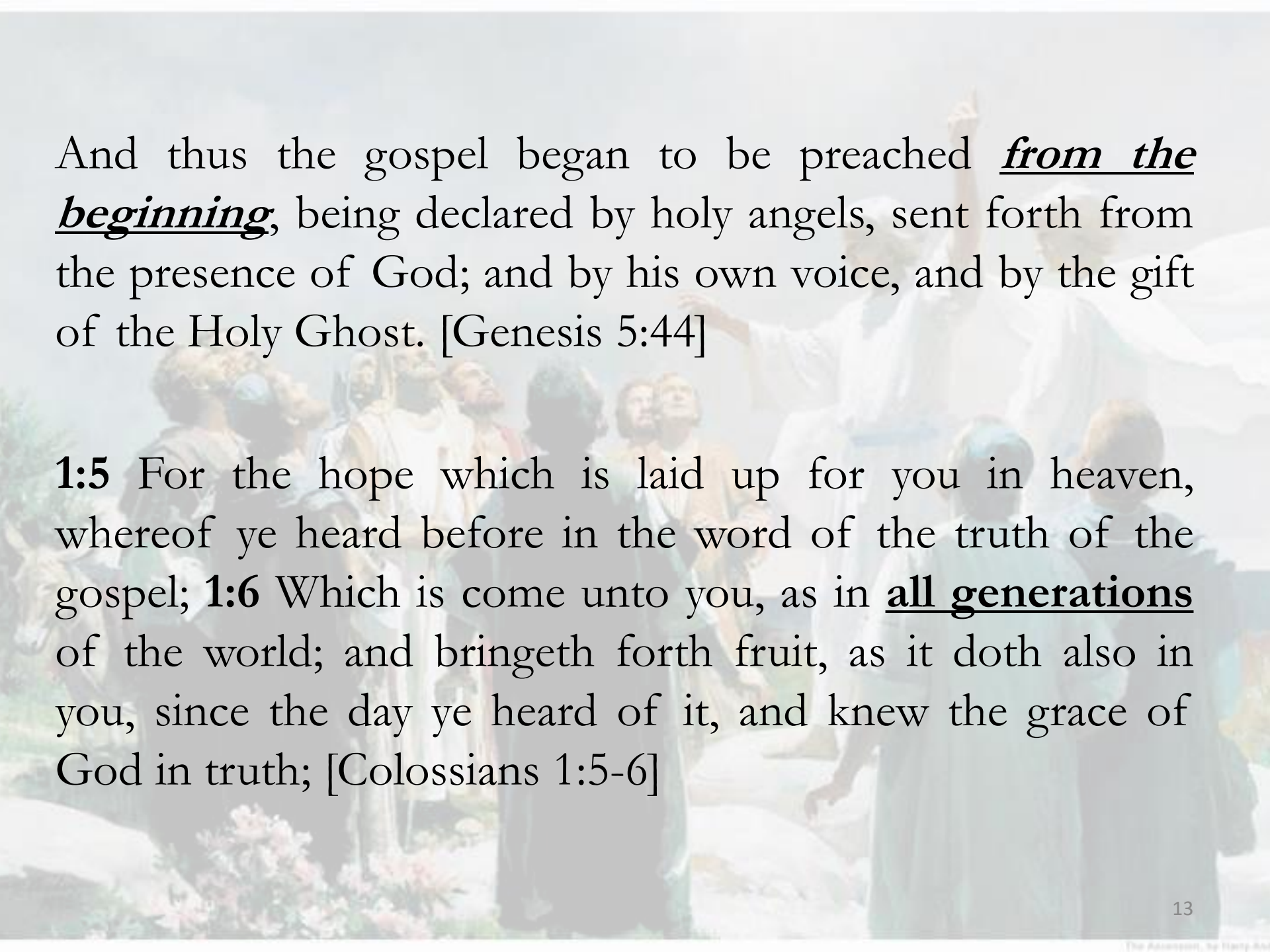


Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

How can we search out the truth without some knowledge or understanding of the light?





And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. [Genesis 5:44]

1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; **1:6** Which is come unto you, as in all generations of the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth; [Colossians 1:5-6]

Alma 9:38-56

9:38 Now we see that Adam did fall by the partaking of the forbidden fruit, according to the word of God; and thus we see, that by his fall, **all mankind became a lost and a fallen people.** **9:39** And now behold, I say unto you, that if it had been possible for Adam to have partaken of the fruit of the tree of life at that time, there would have been no death, and the word would have been void, making God a liar: for he said, If thou eat, thou shall surely die.

Alma 9:38-56

9:40 And we see that death comes upon mankind...which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man, in which he might repent; **9:41** Therefore this life became a probationary state; *a time to prepare to meet God*; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead. **9:42** Now if it had not been for the plan of redemption, which was laid from the foundation of the world, there could have been no resurrection of the dead; **9:43** But there was a plan of redemption laid, which shall bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, of which has been spoken.

Alma 9:38-56

9:44 And now behold, if it were possible that our first parents could have gone forth and partaken of the tree of life, they would have been *for ever miserable*, having no preparatory state; **9:45** And thus the plan of redemption would have been frustrated, and the word of God would have been void, taking none effect. **9:46** But behold, it was not so; but it was appointed unto man that they must die; and after death, they must come to judgment; even that same judgment of which we have spoken, which is the end.

Alma 9:38-56

9:47 And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was *expedient that man should know* concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them; **9:48** Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory. **9:49** And they began from that time forth to call on his name; therefore God conversed with men, and **made known unto them the plan of redemption**, which had been prepared from the foundation of the world; **9:50** And this he made known unto them according to their faith and repentance, and their holy works;

Alma 9:38-56

9:51 Wherefore he gave commandments unto men, they having first transgressed the first commandments as to things which were temporal [meaning the commandment to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], and becoming as gods, knowing good from evil, placing themselves in a state to act, or being placed in a **state to act according to their wills and pleasures**, whether to do evil or to do good; **9:52** Therefore God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness; **9:53** For on such the plan of redemption could have no power, for the works of justice could not be destroyed, according to the supreme goodness of God.

Alma 9:38-56

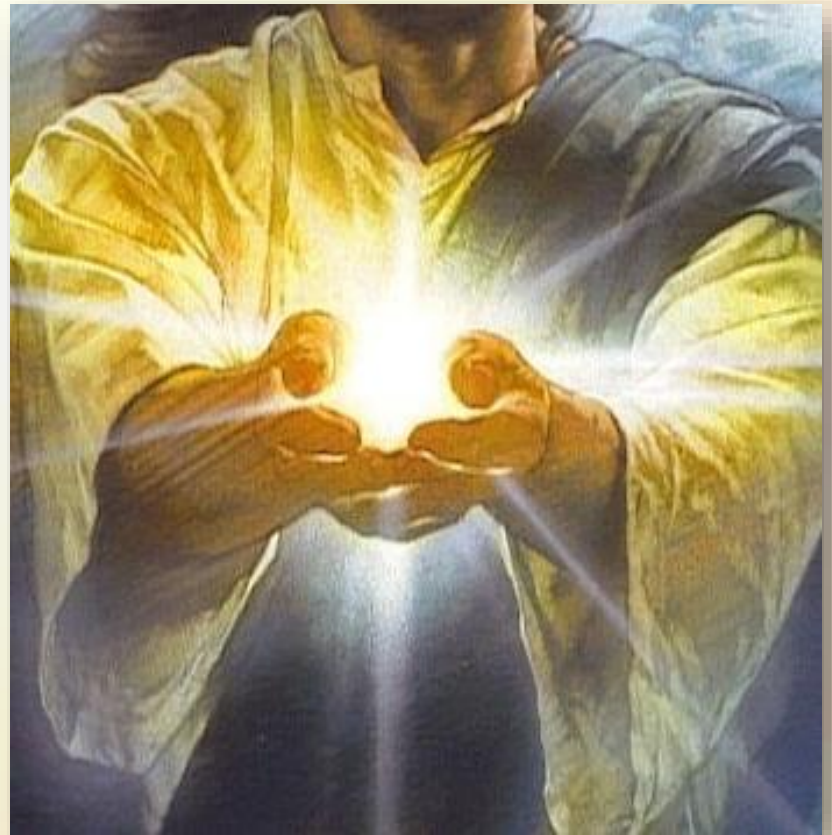
9:54 But *God did call on men*, in the name of his Son, [this being the plan of redemption which was laid,] saying: If ye will repent, and harden not your hearts, then will I have mercy upon you, through mine only begotten Son.

9:55 Therefore, whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine only begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest. **9:56** And whosoever will harden his heart and will do iniquity, behold, I swear in my wrath that he shall not enter into my rest.

THE LIGHT AND DARK

DC 50:6a-b

That which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day. And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you...”

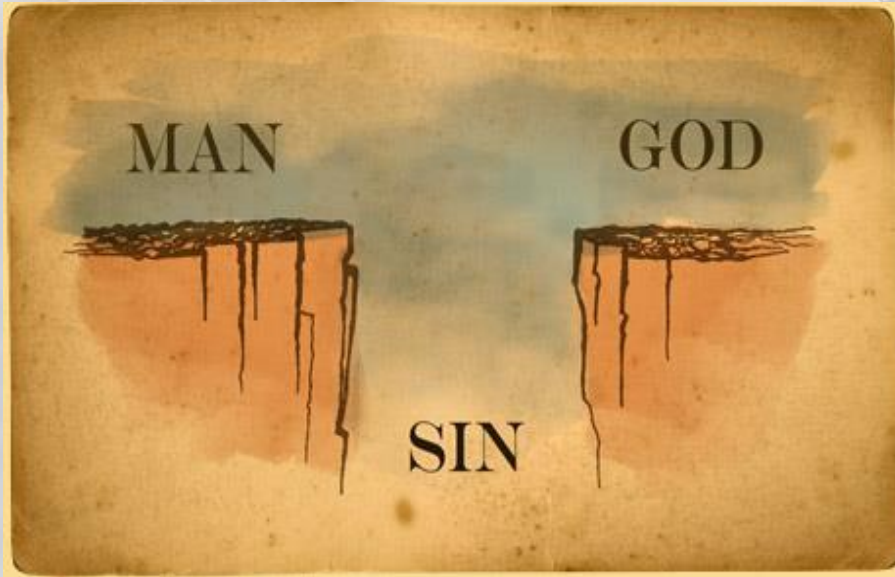




For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to *every man*, that they may know good from evil [Moroni 7:14]

THE LIGHT AND DARK WITHIN

THE LIGHT AND DARK WITHIN



We are only human right?

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,” or “But we have sinned...and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags [Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 64:6]

Romans 3:22-26

3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference; [between Jews and Gentiles] **3:23** **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;** **3:24** Therefore being justified only by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; **3:25** 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;** **3:26** To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the *justifier* of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 6:1-12

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **6:2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **6:3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **6:5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; **6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. **6:7** For he that is dead to sin is *freed* from sin.

Romans 6:1-12

6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also **live with him**; **6:9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. **6:10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. **6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but *alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

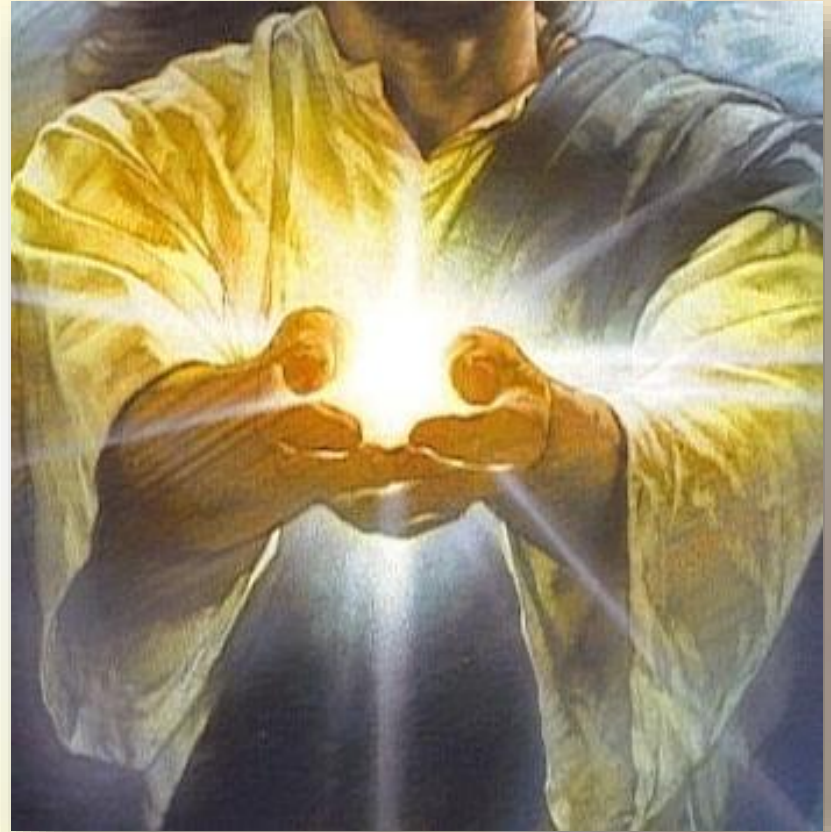


Genesis 4:12-13

And Adam and Eve blessed the name of God; and they made all things *known* unto their sons and their daughters. And Satan came among them, saying, I am also a son of God, and he commanded them, saying, Believe it not. And they believed it not; and they loved Satan more than God. And men began *from that time forth* to be carnal, sensual and devilish.

Moroni 7:14 and DC 83:7b-c

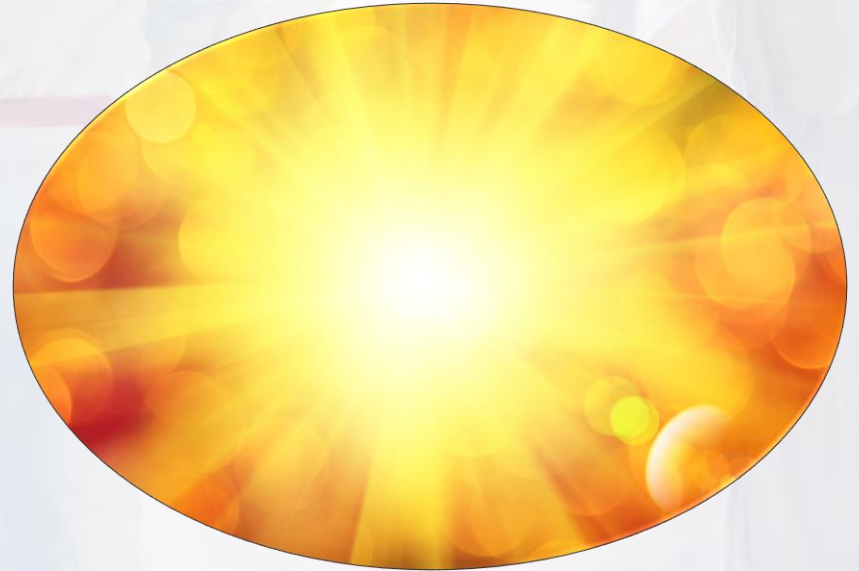
For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil... For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that **hearkeneth** to the voice of the Spirit.



THE LIGHT AND DARK WITHIN

Spirit of the Natural Man

Spirit of Jesus Christ



But before the plates and the Urim and Thummim were handed to him [Joseph Smith, Jr.], he was blessed with a vision. The heavens were opened and he saw on the left hand side a vast army, organized, armed, and disciplined for war. And looking on the other side he saw another host armed, but not with carnal weapons, disciplined, clothed in appropriate raiment facing the other host. And he was given to understand that these were the adversary's hosts and these were the hosts of the Lord God and they were about to be joined in mortal combat.

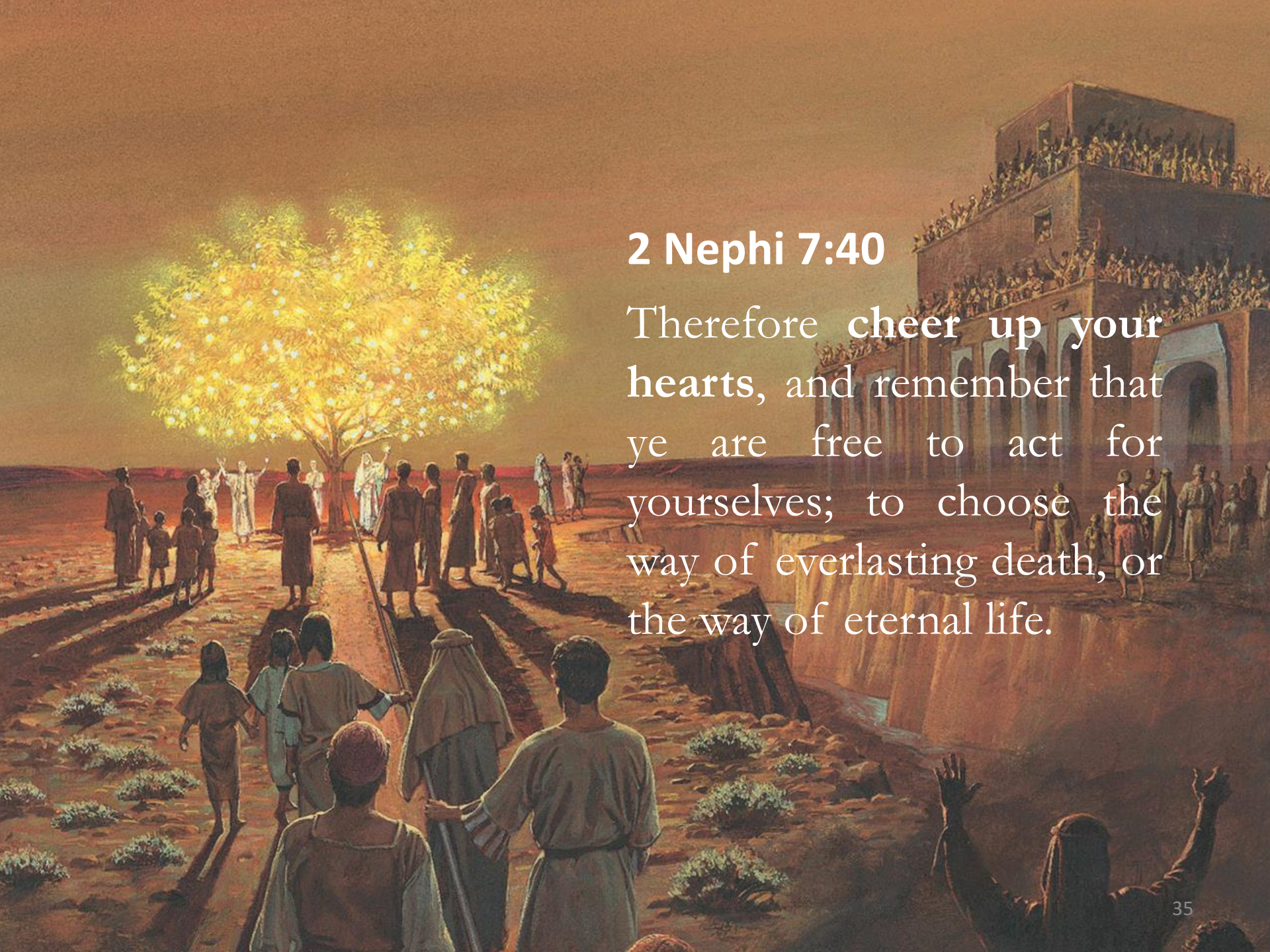
There was no compromise, none whatever, but the most gripping thing that came to Joseph was the fact that what he saw represented in the heavens was simply a revelation of *his own inward soul*. But whenever he did the will of God then the armies of heaven were empowered in their struggle against the armies of hell. And on the other hand if he would disobey the commandments of God, then the armies of the adversary were thus empowered by his disobedience to gain an advantage over the hosts of heaven. But that wasn't all, not only was he given to know that his own soul was a battle ground, but he was given to know also that he himself was the prize for which the two armies struggled. And gentlemen you can take that as gospel.

Yes, a boy went into woods, the light was growing brighter and brighter, the day dawn was beginning, the day star is beginning to arise in our hearts... My friends, one word from the lips of our Lord Jesus Christ, open unto your soul, has the capacity to reproduce His character within you. It is not a question of the invitation of Christ...**it is a question of Christ in you**, the hope of glory. When there shall arise the Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory in the lives and the souls of the people of this Church, then, not before then, will come the Kingdom of God. My friends again, I may complete to you, where is the testimony of Jesus to be found? Show me where it isn't, for in every corner of the universe God has given Himself.

It is said in the Old Testament by one of the wise men that it is the glory of God to conceal a thing. Now if it takes glory or intelligence to conceal it, *what does it take to find it?* God has revealed Himself and hidden Himself at the same time so that one of Him is revealed shall entice us to search for that which is hidden, and in the search for that which is hidden there shall come to our souls the knowledge and the glory and the beauty of Zion. Not so far away my friends. Nearer than many of us think, yet it is certain God has not set His hand to the plough to look back. He has not cast us in this role at this time as a mere experiment for if there is one thing that I have learned during my ministry it is this. If I never learn anything else and if you never learn anything else all will be well. That there is in Jesus Christ for you a better self which He will give you if you will give Him the self that you are. So may the day star arise in our hearts and may we find peace and assurance in the hope of the Kingdom is my prayer.

Wherefore, we learn that God has given mankind intelligence, or light and truth, through His Son, Jesus Christ, while Satan has cast the chains of darkness over the world through sin and disobedience, and all of this so that mankind could become agents unto themselves. It is therefore crucial to understand that whereas God desires to share His love and eternal life with mankind, the adversary desires to subject mankind according to his will, which Jacob described as “...to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself.” [2 Nephi 6:21]

3:16 And because of my mourning and lamentation, ye have gathered yourselves together, and do marvel; yea, and ye have great need to marvel; **3:17** Yea, ye ought to marvel, because ye are given away, that the devil has got so great hold upon your hearts; yea, how could ye have given away to the enticing of him who is seeking to hurl away your souls down to everlasting misery and endless wo? **3:18** O repent ye, repent ye! why will ye die? Turn ye, turn ye unto the Lord your God. Why has he forsaken you? **3:19** It is because you have hardened your hearts; yea, ye will not hearken unto the voice of the Good Shepherd; yea, ye have provoked him to anger against you. [Helaman 3:16-19]



2 Nephi 7:40

Therefore **cheer up your hearts**, and remember that ye are free to act for yourselves; to choose the way of everlasting death, or the way of eternal life.

Why hath Satan got such great hold upon your hearts? Why will ye yield yourselves unto him that he may have *power over you*, to blind your eyes, that ye will not understand the words which are spoken, according to their truth? [Alma 8:36-37]



“Believest thou that there is a God?...Will ye deny again that there is a God, and also deny the Christ?...Behold, I know that thou believest, but thou art possessed with a lying spirit, and ye have put off the Spirit of God, that it may have no place in you; but the devil has power over you, and he doth carry you about, working devices, that he may destroy the children of God.” Although Korihor had witnesses of both God and Jesus Christ, he confessed to Alma that he hearkened to the words of the devil and taught his false doctrines “because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind.”

Alma 16:46, 50, 68



Thereby, when we choose to commit sin, we subject ourselves to both the devil and to that natural man which is an enemy to God [read Mosiah 1:119].

Abinadi explained when he preached before the priests of King Noah, “Yea, even that old serpent that did beguile our first parents, which was the cause of their fall; Which was the cause of all mankind becoming carnal, sensual, devilish, knowing evil from good, **subjecting** themselves to the devil.” [Mosiah 8:74-75] Notice that Satan is the cause of all mankind knowing evil from good, whereas God told Enoch in Genesis, “And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves.”

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; 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. [Alma 16:223-224]



For every man receiveth wages of him whom he listeth to obey...That they might reap their rewards according to their works, whether they were good or whether they were bad, to reap eternal happiness or eternal misery, according to the spirit which they listed to obey, whether it be a good spirit or a bad one. [Alma 1:129 and 128]

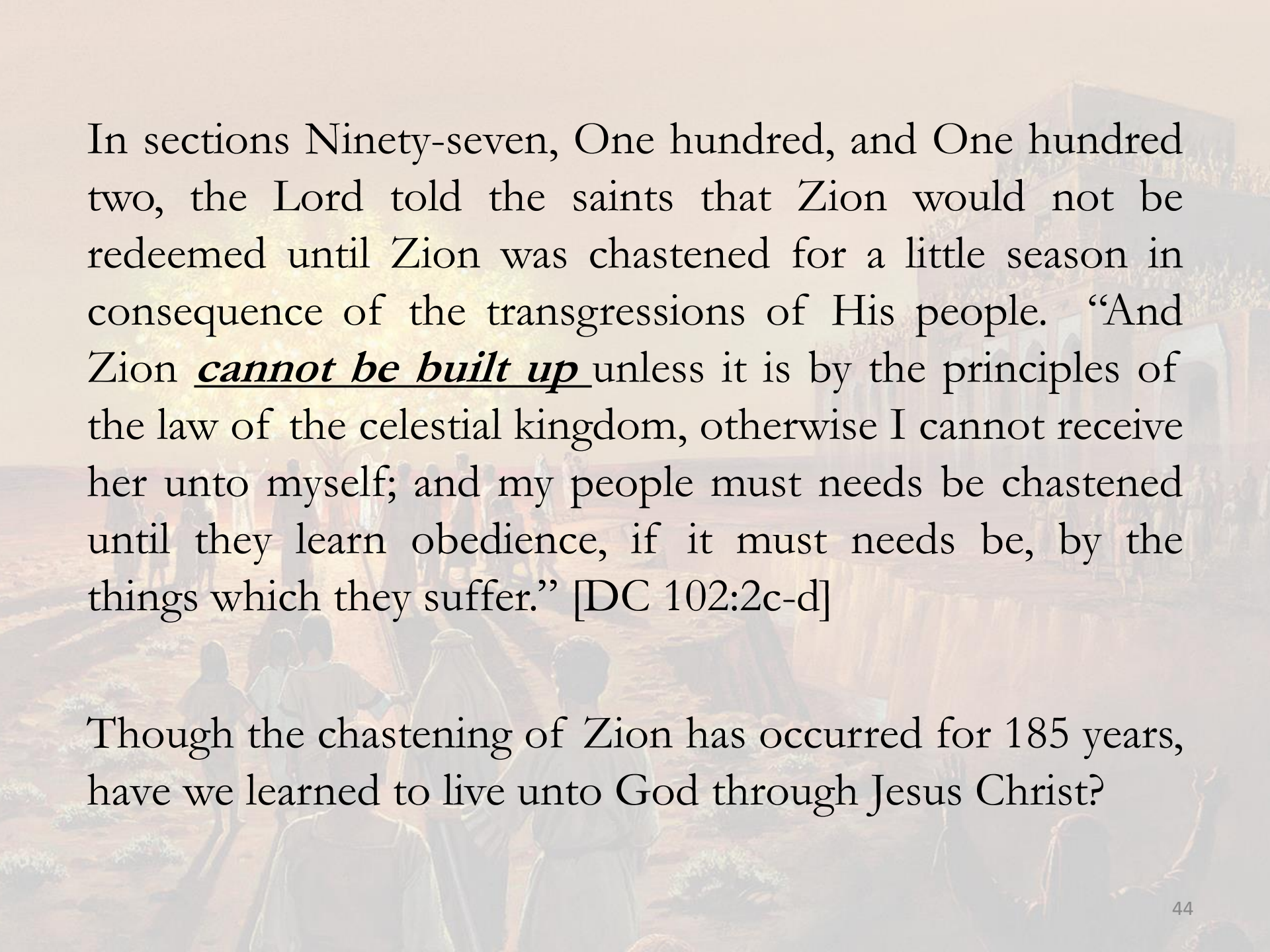


7:10 And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? **7:11** Israel hath sinned, and they have also **transgressed my covenant** which I commanded them; for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. **7:12** Therefore the children of Israel ***could not stand before their enemies***, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed; neither will I be with you any more, ***except*** ye destroy the accursed from among you. **7:13** Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow; for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel; ***thou canst not stand*** before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. [Joshua 7:10-13]



97:4a And now I give unto you a word concerning Zion: Zion shall be redeemed, although she is chastened for a little season...**100:1a** Verily I say unto you, my friends, Behold, I will give unto you a revelation and commandment, that you may know how to act in the discharge of your duties concerning the salvation and redemption of your brethren, who have been scattered on the land of Zion, **being driven and smitten by the hands of mine enemies**; on whom I will pour out my wrath without measure in mine own time; **100:1b** for I have suffered them thus far, that they might fill up the measure of their iniquities, that their cup might be full, and that those who call themselves after my name might be *chastened for a little season*, with a sore and grievous chastisement, because they did not hearken altogether unto the precepts and commandments which I gave unto them. [DC 97:4a and DC 100:1a-b]

102:2a Behold, I say unto you, **Were it not for the transgressions** of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been **redeemed even now**, **102:2b** but, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom; [DC 102:2a-b]



In sections Ninety-seven, One hundred, and One hundred two, the Lord told the saints that Zion would not be redeemed until Zion was chastened for a little season in consequence of the transgressions of His people. “And Zion **cannot be built up** unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.” [DC 102:2c-d]

Though the chastening of Zion has occurred for 185 years, have we learned to live unto God through Jesus Christ?

Romans 8:31 and 6:16



“It takes power to defeat power,” and what power is greater than God? “If God be for us, who can prevail against us?” Paul wrote in Romans, chapter six, “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

1:115 Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they **might have joy**. **1:116** And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. **1:117** And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become **free for ever**, knowing good from evil; **1:118** To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. **1:119** Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. **1:120** And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil...**1:122** And now...I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and **hearken** unto his great commandments; **1:123** And be **faithful** unto his words, and **choose** eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit. [2 Nephi 1:115-123]



LIGHT OF CHRIST

It is important to realize that when we choose to follow after the things of the world over the things of God, it becomes increasingly difficult to see the path ahead and to follow the commandments of the Lord, and this is because we have given power unto the adversary to darken our lamps.

If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is *no light in him.*

[John 11:9-10]

4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. **4:15** Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away....**4:18** But the path of the just is as the *shining light*, that shineth more and more unto the **perfect day**. **4:19** The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble. **4:20** ...attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. **4:21** Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the **midst of thine heart**. **4:22** For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. **4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life... **4:25** Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. **4:26** Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. **4:27** Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil. [Proverbs 4:14-27]



“For thou art my lamp, O Lord; and the Lord will lighten my darkness.” [2 Samuel 22:29]

Jesus Christ is the light and life of the world and as we read previously, every man is given to know good from evil, or light from dark, through the Spirit of Christ, and this is “the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ.” [Moroni 7:14]

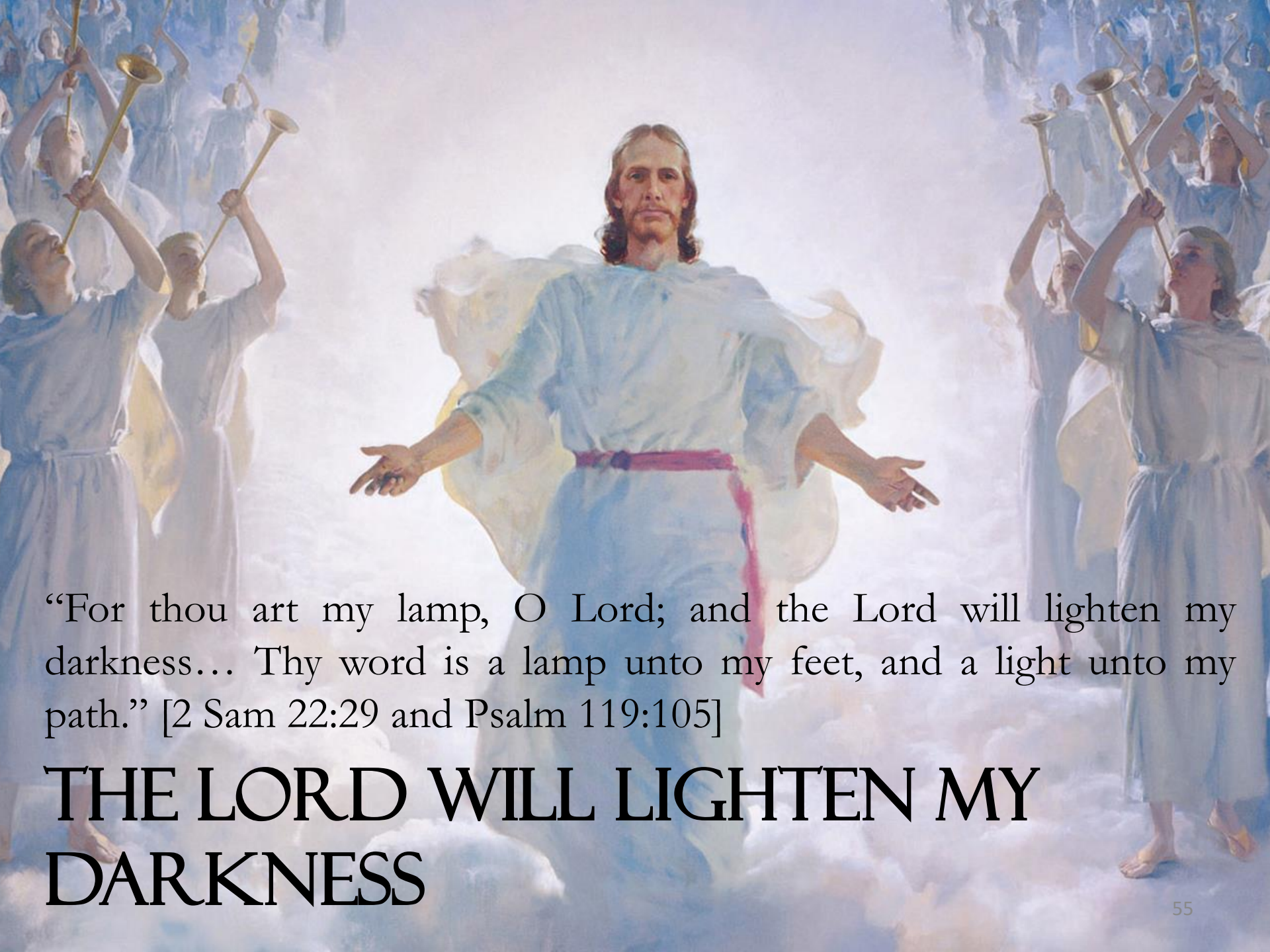
Therefore, through the light of Christ we are able to witness and understand what man might become if we live faithful, pray always, and have our lamps trimmed and burning with oil, which is to become a son or daughter of God. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, *we shall be like him*; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” [1 John 3:1-3]

7:14 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; **7:15** Wherefore ye may know with a *perfect knowledge*, it is of God; but whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil, **7:16** For after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no not one; neither doth his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him. **7:17** And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge, ye shall also be judged. **7:18** Wherefore I beseech you, brethren, that ye should **search diligently in the light of Christ**, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, **ye certainly will be a child of Christ.**

[Moroni 7:14-18]

THE LIGHT AND DARK WITHIN

Within in each person is a battle between good and evil, light and dark, which is a part of God's great plan of happiness, for we could not receive the glory, or intelligence, of God without opposition. Although it is the glory of God to conceal a matter, it is the honor of mankind to discover it, and thus God has given every man light and dark, or in other words, the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of the natural man, which is carnal, sensual, and devilish. Therefore brethren, let us **choose** to hearken to the words of Lehi and "look to the great Mediator, and hearken unto his great commandments; And be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit."

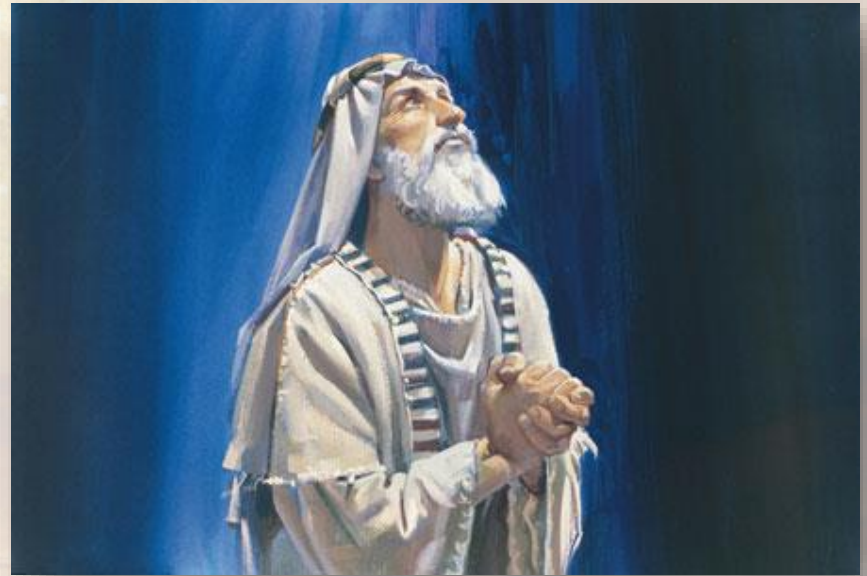


“For thou art my lamp, O Lord; and the Lord will lighten my darkness... Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” [2 Sam 22:29 and Psalm 119:105]

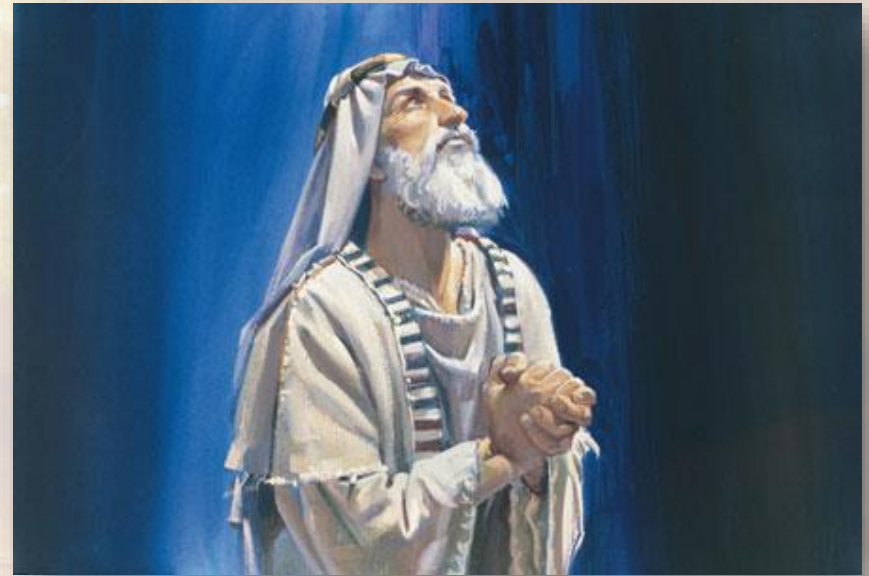
THE LORD WILL LIGHTEN MY DARKNESS



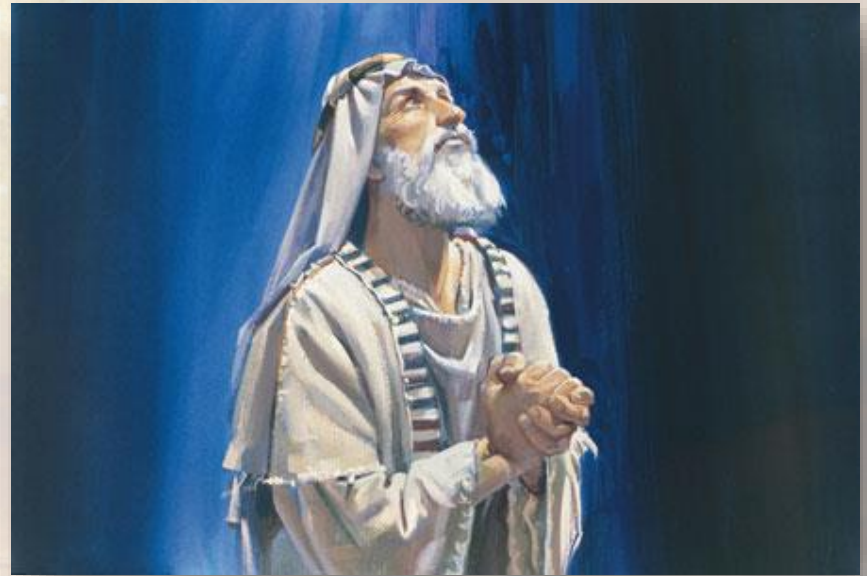
“And it came to pass that he spake unto me, and bade me follow him. And...as I followed him, I beheld myself that I was in a *dark and dreary waste*. And after I had traveled for the space of many hours in darkness I began to pray unto the Lord, that he would have mercy on me according to the multitude of his tender mercies. And it came to pass after I had prayed unto the Lord, I beheld a large and spacious field.” [1 Nephi 2:45-48]



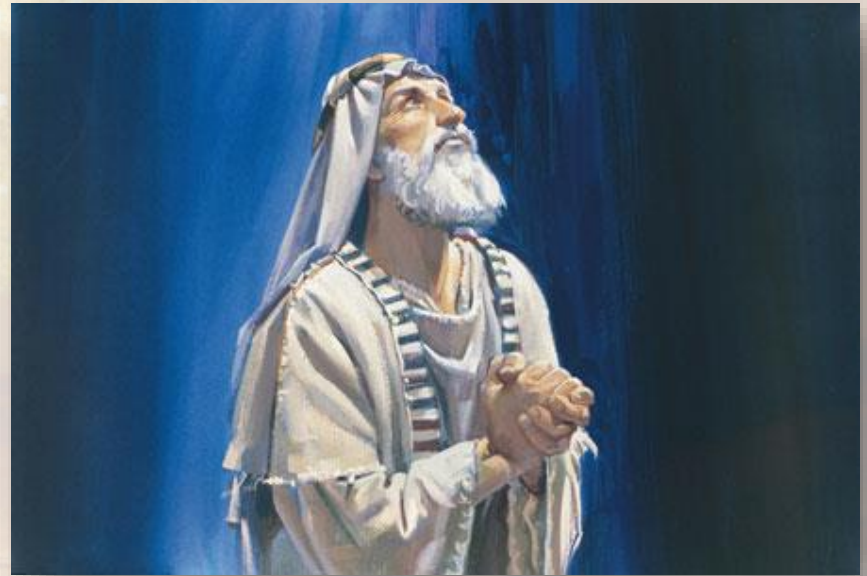
“The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth; and light and truth forsaketh that evil one. **Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning**, and God having redeemed man from the fall, men became again in their infant state, innocent before God. And that wicked one cometh and **taketh away light and truth, through disobedience**, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers.” [DC 90:6a-b]



Further, we know “because that Adam fell, we are; and by his fall came death, and we are made partakers of *misery and woe*. Behold, Satan hath come among the children of men, and tempteth them to worship him; and men have become carnal, sensual, and devilish, and are shut out from the presence of God. But God *hath made known* unto our fathers, that all men must repent.” [Genesis 6:49-51]



Wherefore, though we are conceived in sin, or in other words, born into a dark world, we are able to find our way by the light of Jesus Christ according to God's merciful plan, similar to how Lehi was able to perceive the large and spacious field and then the tree of life after traveling for hours in a dark and dreary waste.





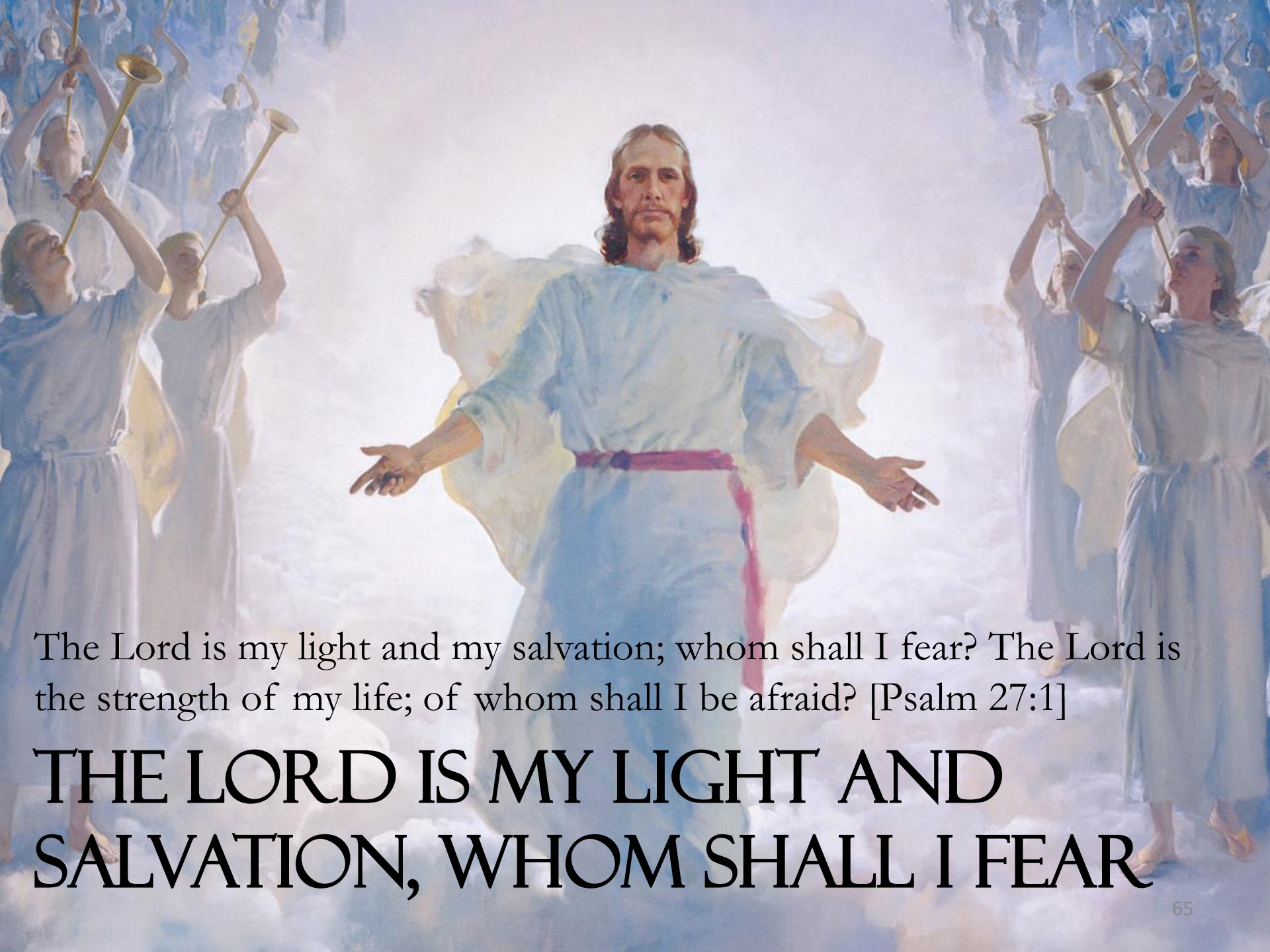
After Lehi and his family partook of the fruit of the tree of life, he turned and beheld a rod of iron and a straight and narrow path which led to the tree, and at the other end of the rod of iron Lehi saw “a large and spacious field, as if it had been world.” [1 Nephi 2:64]. In addition, Lehi saw a fountain of filthy water and a great and specious building, which represented the depths of hell and the pride of the world, respectively.

2:65 And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood. **2:66** And it came to pass that they did come forth and commence in the path which led to the tree. **2:67** And it came to pass that there arose a *mist of darkness*; yea, even an exceeding great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost...**2:77** And now I, Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father. **2:78** But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, **continually holding fast to the rod of iron**, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

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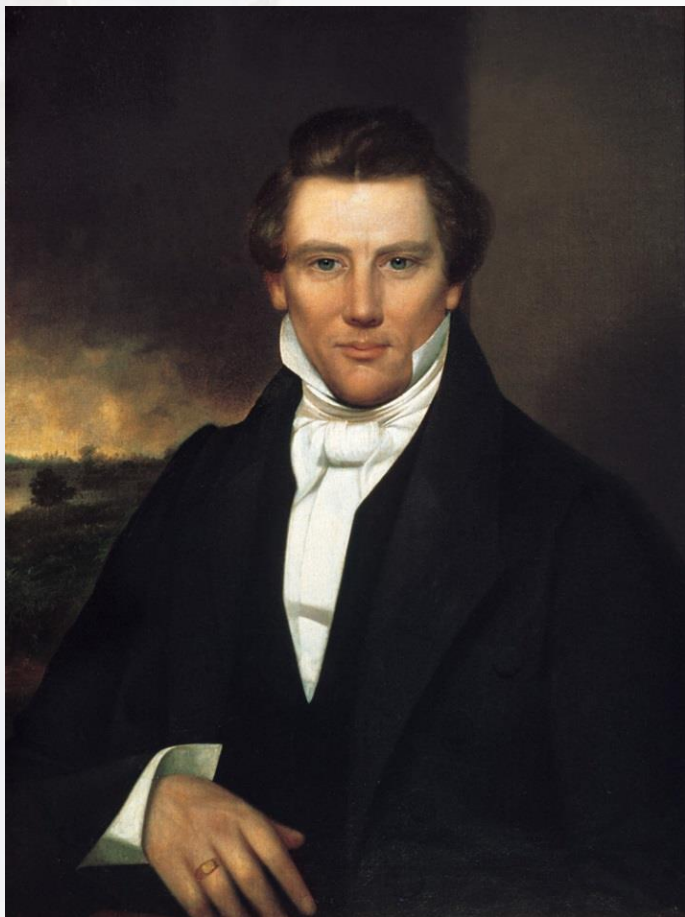
2:79 And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building. **2:80** And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; **2:81** And many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads. **2:82** And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. **2:83** And after they did enter into that building they did point the finger of scorn at me, and those that were partaking of the fruit also; but we heeded them not. **2:84** These are the words of my father: For as many as heeded them, had fallen away. [1 Nephi 2:65-84]

Nephi explained in his vision of the Tree of Life that the rod of iron was a representation of the word of God, while the mists of darkness were the temptations of the devil, “which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they may perish, and are lost.” [1 Nephi 3:125] Through this vision, the Lord has shared with us a precious spiritual truth, that as we walk in this life we will be confronted with many different paths, as there are many different ways to live our life. However, there is only one straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life, and the way is made clear by the Word of God, which is Jesus Christ. “For in the beginning was the ***Word***, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace.” [John 1:16]



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? [Psalm 27:1]

**THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND
SALVATION, WHOM SHALL I FEAR**



Although it is more difficult for Satan to blind our eyes through deception if we hold continually fast to the Word of God, it is important to recognize that there are other avenues in which the devil attempts to sift the children of God as wheat [read Luke 22:31, Alma 17:46-48, and 3 Nephi 8:49-51]. Besides pride and lust, perhaps the greatest method that Satan utilizes in order to separate us from God is fear, which is evident in the testimonies of both Joseph Smith and Moses.

JOSEPH SMITH TELLS HIS OWN STORY

It was on the morning of a beautiful clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally. After I had retired into the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such astounding influence over me as to **bind my tongue so that I could not speak.**

Continued...

JOSEPH SMITH TELLS HIS OWN STORY

Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction, not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world who had such a marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being. Just at this moment of great alarm **I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun**; which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself **delivered** from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages [whose brightness and glory defy all description] standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, [pointing to the other,] “This is My beloved Son, hear Him.”

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION

It is important to notice that in Joseph's testimony, Satan did not attempt to deceive him as he did with Korihor. The Scriptures give many examples of Satan attempting to deceive the hearts of men in perhaps more obvious ways, such as in DC 3:3-4 where Satan laid a cunning plan to utilize the lost 116 translated pages of the Book of Mormon in order to destroy the Lord's work.

3:3a Verily, verily I say unto you, that Satan has great hold upon their hearts; he stirreth them up to iniquity against that which is good, and their hearts are corrupt, and full of wickedness and abominations, and **they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; therefore they will not ask of me...** **3:3d** yea, he stirreth up their hearts to anger against this work; yea, he saith unto them, Deceive and lie in wait to catch, that ye may destroy; behold, this is no harm; **3:3e** and thus he flattereth them, and **telleth them that it is no sin to lie, that they may catch a man in a lie**, that they may destroy him; and thus he flattereth them, and leadeth them along until he draggeth their souls down to hell; **3:3f** and thus he causeth them to catch themselves in their own snare; and thus he goeth up and down, to and fro in the earth, seeking to destroy the souls of men. [DC 3:3a-4]

Instead of attempting to deceive Joseph in the grove outright, the adversary tried to use the power of darkness to overcome and subject Joseph to his will, and this he almost did by causing Joseph to fear, for Joseph wrote, “Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction.” The Webster’s Dictionary defines the word fear as “a painful emotion or passion excited by an expectation of evil.

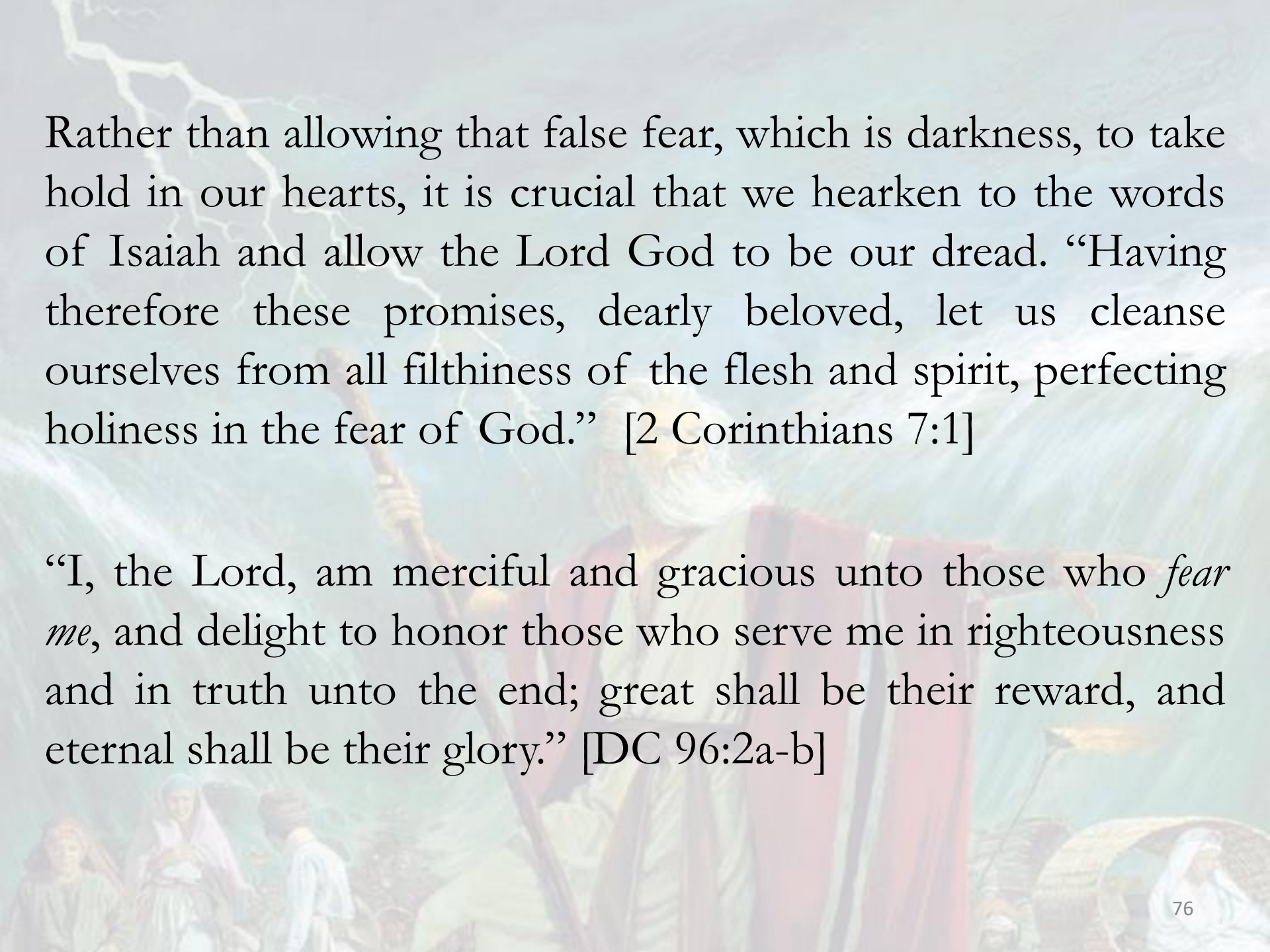
This type of fear is what we might call an ungodly fear, which is a more potent and dangerous way for the devil to attempt to force individuals to believe in a thing that is not true. In the case of Joseph, Satan used a lie that affected Joseph so strongly that he feared that he was doomed to be destroyed. However, the irony in this type of lie is that if we allow it to take hold upon our hearts it will become a reality.



14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid; and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. **14:11** And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? **14:12** Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. **14:13** And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. **14:14** The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. [Exodus 14:10-14]

Thus, because of Israel's unbelief, the people feared that the Lord would not be their sun and shield, which helped to contribute to their disobedience. Hence, the fear that extended from the false belief that God would allow His chosen people to perish, caused the children of Israel to face the very real truth that God is a God of judgment, and if we disobey His commandments, the plan of mercy cannot have claim upon us. "And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a new commandment, that you may understand my will concerning you, or in other words, I give unto you directions how you may act before me, that it may turn to you for your salvation. I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, *ye have no promise.*" [DC 81:3]

The same conclusion can be compared with us and Zion today. If we fear and doubt that God is with us and chase after the idols of the world for comfort, then we will encounter the very real fear of God's judgment, which is just and true. In Psalms, chapter nineteen, we read, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, *enlightening* the eyes. The fear of the Lord is *clean*, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are *true and righteous* altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." [Psalms 19:7-10]



Rather than allowing that false fear, which is darkness, to take hold in our hearts, it is crucial that we hearken to the words of Isaiah and allow the Lord God to be our dread. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” [2 Corinthians 7:1]

“I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who *fear me*, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end; great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory.” [DC 96:2a-b]

Psalms 27:1-4

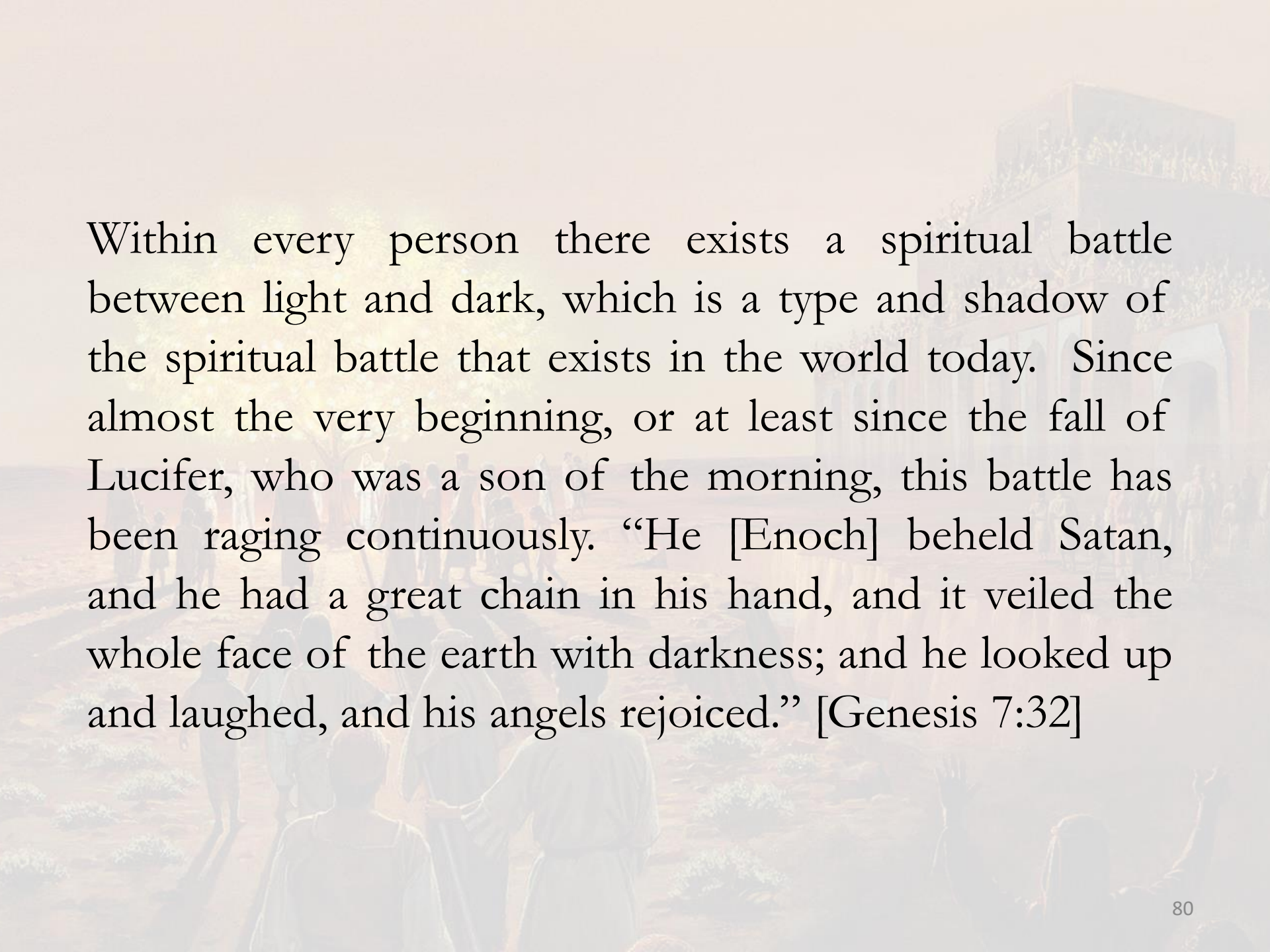
27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **27:2** When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. **27:3** Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I am confident. **27:4** One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Jesus described Satan as one who “was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it” [John 8:44]. The adversary will attempt to use every form of deception in order to murder the souls of men, even that of an ungodly fear. Therefore, it is important to always remember that “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind...God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect...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.” [2 Timothy 1:7 and 1 John 4:16-18]



Verily, verily I say unto you, Darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and *all flesh* has become corrupt before my face. [DC 105:9a]

THE LIGHT AND DARK IN THE WORLD



Within every person there exists a spiritual battle between light and dark, which is a type and shadow of the spiritual battle that exists in the world today. Since almost the very beginning, or at least since the fall of Lucifer, who was a son of the morning, this battle has been raging continuously. “He [Enoch] beheld Satan, and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness; and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced.” [Genesis 7:32]

It is evident throughout the Scriptures [Gen 3, Gen 4, Isa 14, DC 22, DC 28, and DC 76] that Satan, who is called perdition, desires to place himself on the throne of God. For we read, “Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [Satan]; Who opposeth and *exalteth himself* above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4]

Many people have asked, “If Satan knows that he will lose in the end, why does he try?” There are perhaps many reasons for this, but we will only present three arguments here. First, what does an individual usually do when they are extremely angry with someone but cannot hurt them directly? The answer is quite simple, the individual attempts to hurt the other by harming what the other loves, and God loves mankind more than anything. Therefore, Satan went about to tempt Eve in order to separate man from God, not knowing of course that this was a part of God’s plan. “Satan...sought also to beguile Eve, for *he knew not the mind of God;* wherefore, he sought to destroy the world.” [Genesis 3:7]

Secondly, we can surmise from various Scriptures that what Satan desires most of all is to obtain his own kingdom. Thus, Satan is attempting to take the throne of God knowing that he will not succeed because it is his desire to have his own kingdom, and thereby we know that God will grant unto him according to his desire. Nonetheless, this is not a kingdom that is desirable for those who yearn for life for there will be no light there. Instead, this kingdom is **outer darkness**, which is a place where “the end, the width, the height, the depth, and the misery thereof, they understand not, neither any man except them who are ordained unto this condemnation.” [DC 76:4k]

Third and finally, what individual who has his own kingdom does not desire for others to worship him? “And the devil came unto him [Jesus Christ] again, and said, All these things will I give unto thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” [Matthew 4:9] In this verse we read that Satan’s greatest wish is for all mankind to worship him “and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself,” [2 Nephi 6:21] which misery is caused because he could not have happiness in wickedness [read Alma 19:74; Helaman 5:51-52; and Mormon 1:37-38].

The difference between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil is the difference between light and dark, life and death. Therefore, we learn that in order for Satan to force the children of men to worship him, he sought to destroy the agency of man, and even though God cast him down by the power of Jesus Christ, he has not relented in this quest. Instead, Satan continues to this day to desire to blind mankind into thinking that they have no choice, which he attempts to accomplish with every form of deceit available, including fear. Therefore, while God desires for mankind to have knowledge and yearns to share His glory, or His Light and Truth, with each and every soul, Satan desires everyone to worship him for his own glory; thus he craves to take away the knowledge of mankind and to lead them into spiritual darkness.

Although we know that Satan will not take the throne of God, it appears that he is succeeding in his desire to tear souls away from God, for Jesus Christ told the latter day saints, “Verily, verily I say unto you, Darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and *all flesh* has become corrupt before my face.” [DC 105:9a] Nevertheless, all is not lost because God has sent His everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for His sons and daughters. For in the everlasting covenant is the cause of Zion and the embodiment of Jesus Christ, and by keeping the everlasting covenant the light of God will again come into the world.

68:1d behold, this is the promise of the Lord unto you, O ye my servants: wherefore, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I, the Lord, am with you and will stand by you; and ye shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come. [DC 68:1d]

98:5i Wherefore, fear not even unto death; for in this world your joy is not full, but in me your joy is full. **98:5j** Therefore, care not for the body, neither the life of the body; but care for the soul, and for the life of the soul, and **seek the face of the Lord always**, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life. **98:5k** When men are called unto mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth, and the savor of men. They are called to be the savor of men. **98:5l** Therefore, if that salt of the earth lose its savor, behold, it is thenceforth good for nothing, only to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. [DC 98:5i-l]

5:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the ***light of the world***; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. **5:17** Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light to ***all*** that are in the house. **5:18** Therefore, **let your light so shine before this world**, that they may see your good works, and ***glorify*** your Father who is in heaven. [Matthew 5:16-18]

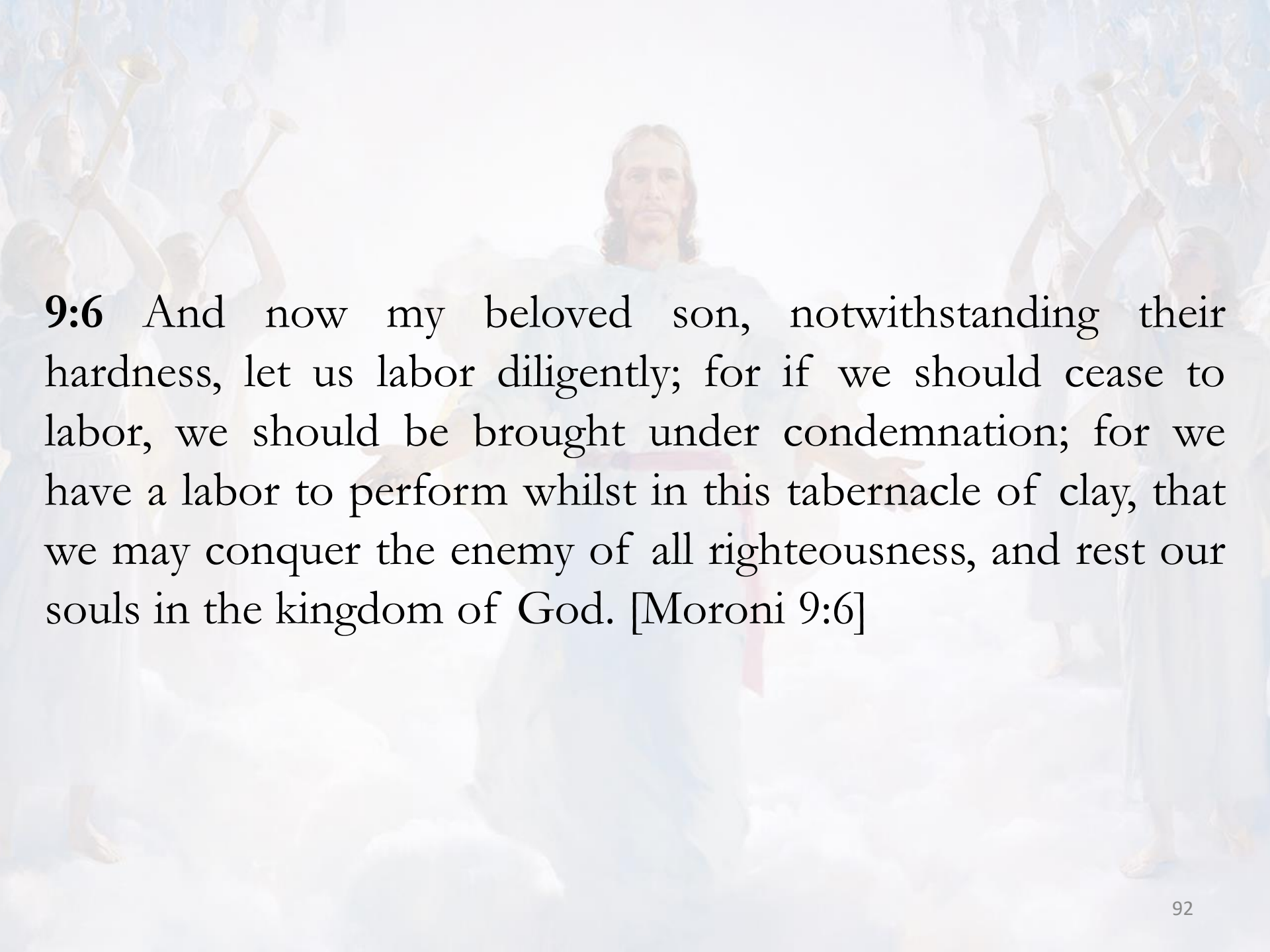
85:18a And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies ***shall be filled with light***, and there shall be no darkness in you, and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.

85:18b Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him: for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will. [DC 85:18]

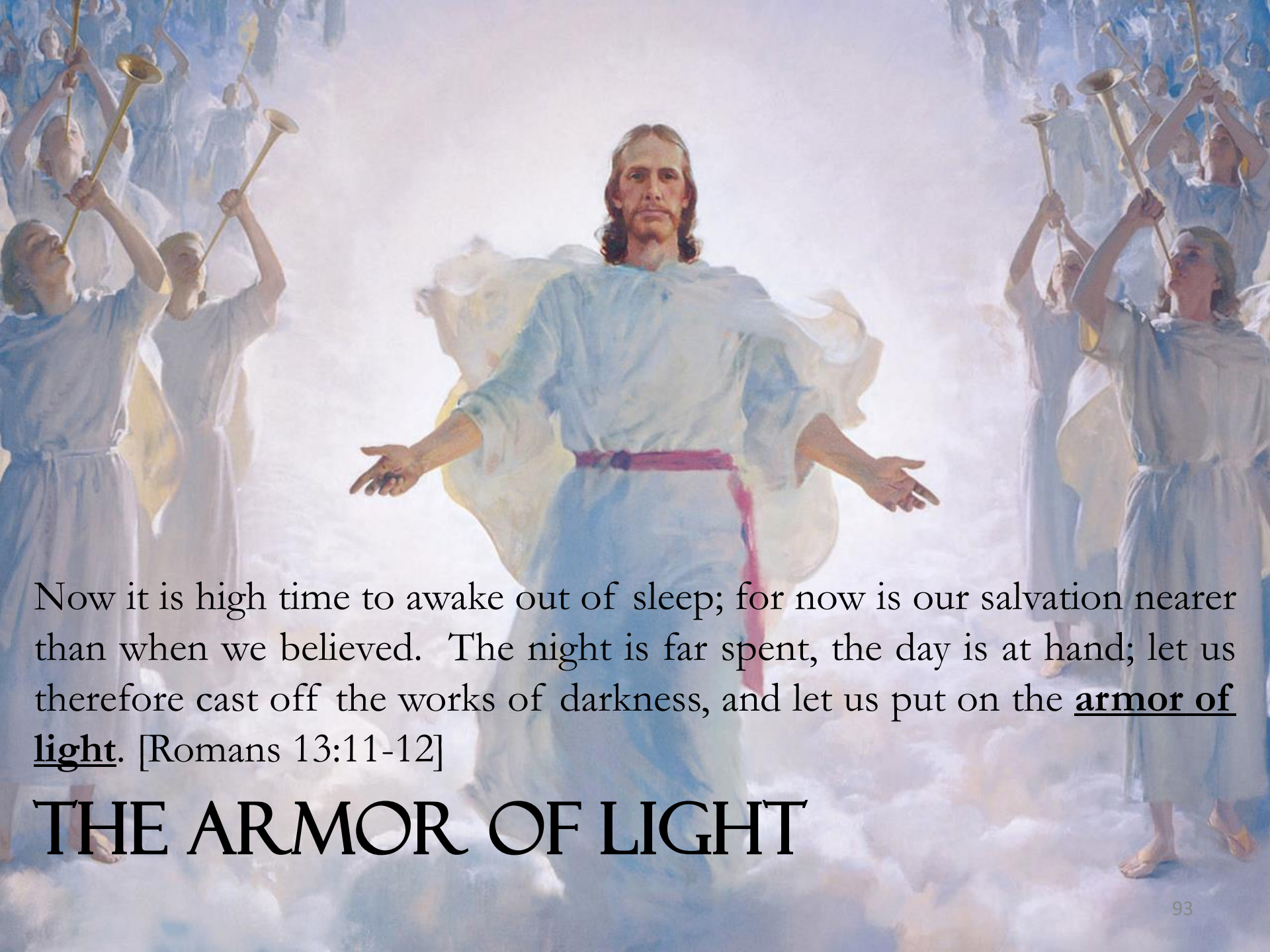
11:3a Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, **11:3b** Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. **11:4a** Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work; **11:4b** and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care. **11:5a** Behold, I am the light and the life of the world, that speak these words; **11:5b** therefore, *give heed with your might*, and then you are called. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, God has called us to be the light of Christ in the world, which can only be accomplished by shaking off the coals of our garments and discovering that the Lord Jesus Christ is within each and every one of us through the power and gift of the Holy Ghost. “Wherefore I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you, my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise...Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and ***shall be in you***. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me; because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, ***and I in you***. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will ***manifest myself to him***.” [DC 85:1c and John 14:17-21]

Jesus told the disciples, “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness...As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” [John 12:46 and John 9:5] Although Jesus has ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of the throne of God, He is still the light and life of the world as long as His peculiar people will serve Him in righteousness, and as long as we have His image in our countenance. In so doing, we might become instruments in the hands of God to bring even one soul to Christ. “For this is my life and my light, my joy and my salvation, and my redemption from everlasting wo.” [Alma 14:125]



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 our souls in the kingdom of God. [Moroni 9:6]



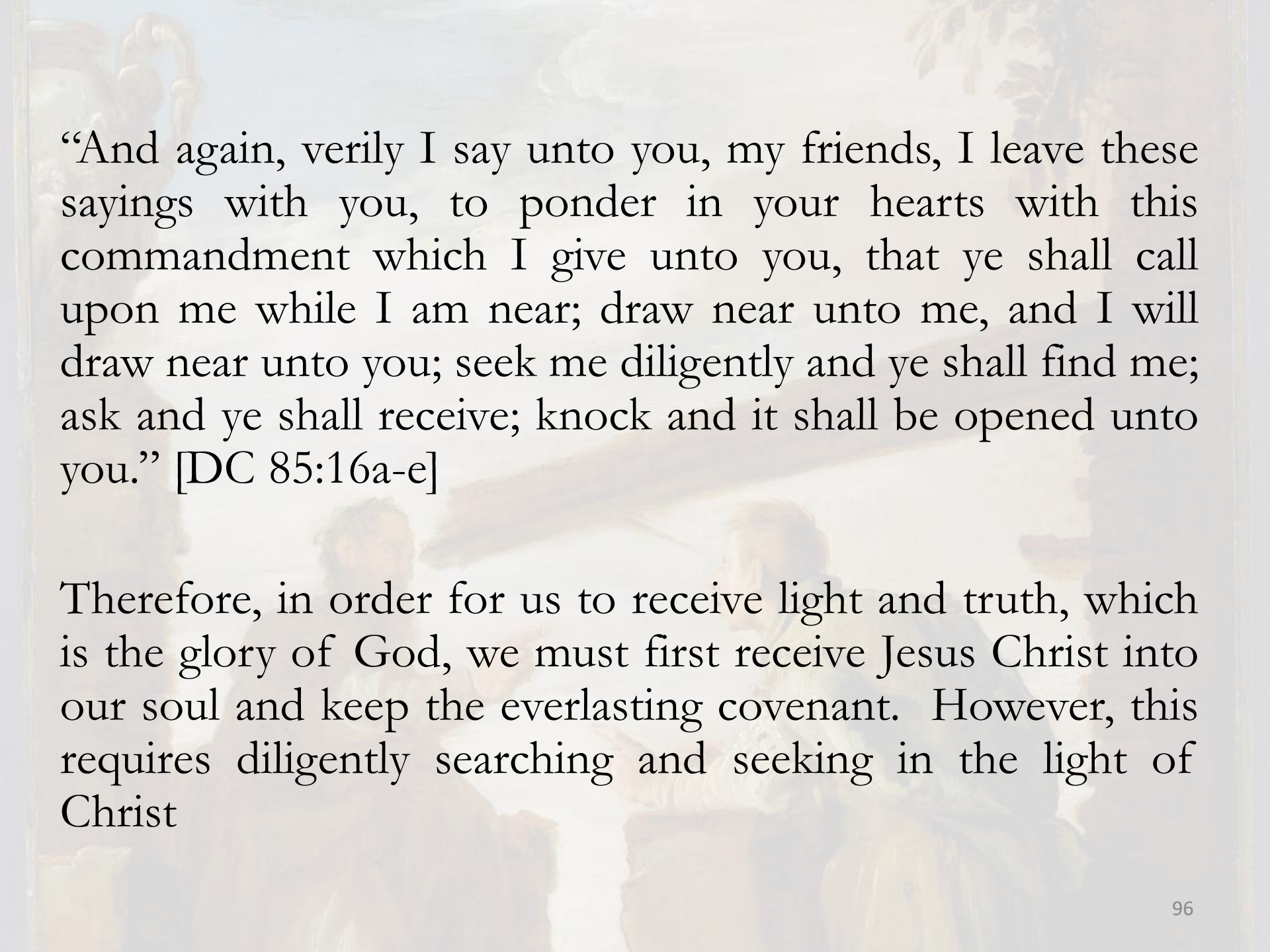
Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the **armor of light**. [Romans 13:11-12]

THE ARMOR OF LIGHT



Why is it that thou beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. [Matthew 7:4 and 8]

If every human eye has a blind spot, how can we truthfully examine ourselves, or others, unless we have the light of Jesus Christ within us? “For thou wilt light my candle; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness...For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.” [Psalms 18:28 and 36:9]



“And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you, to ponder in your hearts with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near; draw near unto me, and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you.” [DC 85:16a-e]

Therefore, in order for us to receive light and truth, which is the glory of God, we must first receive Jesus Christ into our soul and keep the everlasting covenant. However, this requires diligently searching and seeking in the light of Christ

Now is the time to awake from that natural man and walk in a newness of life. When we put off that old man and become new creatures through Jesus Christ, we receive all the promises and blessings of God, or in other words, we receive the whole armor of God. If we desire to glorify God and be a light to the world we must, “Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” [Ephesians 6:11] The word wiles is defined by Webster as “a trick or stratagem practiced for ensnaring or deception; a sly, insidious artifice. To deceive; to beguile.”

6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. **6:14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **6:15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints [Ephesians 6:13-18]

The Pieces of the Armor God

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit

The Whole Armor of God



The Belt of Truth



In order for us to first put on the Armor of God, we must have our “loins girt about with truth,” meaning we must put on the belt of truth. In this verse, Paul was talking about the truth of Jesus Christ, for Jesus told His disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” [John 14:6] It is only through Jesus Christ that we can receive redemption and eternal life. Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, and He is our rock and strong foundation.

After we embrace the truth that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and Savior, we must begin to live the commandments that Christ taught, “Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps.” [1 Peter 2:21] The Scriptures explain, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.” [James 1:22] One of the examples that Christ set for all mankind was baptism. Although we know that Christ never committed sin, Jesus said to John the Baptist, “Suffer me to be baptized of thee, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.” [Matthew 3:43]

The Breastplate of Righteousness



The Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace



With the Holy Ghost as our guide, we can truly share the light of Jesus Christ with the world, “Speaking the truth in love.” Jesus said, “Seek not the things of this world *but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God*, and to establish his righteousness.” [Matthew 6:38] Throughout Christ’s ministry, he preached to His disciples, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you. The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” [Mark 16:14, Matthew 7:9; Matthew 10:6]

The Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace



“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have *not heard?* And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” [Romans 10:13-15]

“And now, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation, that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds; yea, his shafts in the whirlwind; Yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you, to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build, they can not fall.”
[Helaman 2:74-75]

The Shield of Faith



Faith is not simply believing in Jesus Christ, but walking with Him. “What profit is it, my brethren, for a man to say he hath faith, and hath not works? can faith save him? Yea, a man may say, I will show thee I have faith without works; but I say, show me thy faith without works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Even so faith, if it have not works is dead, being alone.” [James 2:14-15 and 17]

The Shield of Faith



“Yea, there are many who do say, If thou wilt shew unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe. Now I ask, Is this faith? Behold, I say unto you, **Nay**, for if a man knoweth a thing, he hath no cause to believe, for he knoweth it. And now how much more cursed is he that knoweth the will of God and doeth it not, than he that only believeth, or only have cause to believe, and falleth into transgression? Now of this thing, ye must judge.” [Alma 16:139-141]

The Shield of Faith



“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him *ask in faith*, nothing wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.” [James 1:5-7]

The Shield of Faith



The Helmet of Salvation



The Helmet of Salvation is the peace which only comes from the true knowledge that God is love, and that He desires for us to have eternal life with Him and Jesus Christ. “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 [*atonement*] for our sins.” [1 John 4:8-10]

The Helmet of Salvation



“How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope? And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you, that ye shall have *hope through* **the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection**, to be raised unto life eternal; and this because of your faith in him according to the promise.” [Moroni 7:46-47]

John explained that the Gospel was preached through Jesus Christ from the beginning, and that the Gospel was the word which was also the life and light of the world. “And the Light shineth in the world, and the world perceiveth it not.” The word of God is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which shines through the darkness of the world, meaning all the lies and deceptions of the devil that would take us away from God. It is important that we develop a love for the truth, so that we will not be deceived. Nephi wrote, “Feast upon the word of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things that ye should do.” [2 Nephi 14:4]

The Sword of the Spirit



Paul wrote that we should “study to show thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth.” [2 Timothy 2:15] Further, Paul also wrote that all scripture that is given by the inspiration of God “is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be *perfect*, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” If we hold fast to the word of God, we will not be lead astray. [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

The Sword of the Spirit



Paul reminds us that in order for us to put on the whole Armor of God, we must be in constant prayer with God. A good prayer life is an important part of being in the army of Lord, as it allows us to commune with God and draw closer to Him. “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” [James 4:8]

The Whole Armor of God



It is important to understand that each part of the Armor of God is essential for the welfare of our souls, and through the light and truth of Jesus Christ we will be able to stand as a witness for Him and the Kingdom. Only the light of Zion will be able to overcome the darkness in this world, which can only be accomplished through righteousness. Brothers and sisters, now is the time to cast off the dark veil of unbelief and disobedience. Rather, let us take that everlasting light of the glory of God, which is a marvelous light of His goodness, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. For “the night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light...and remember that Saints should be **cheerful** in their warfare that they may be **joyous** in their triumph.” [Romans 13:12 and DC 119:6d]