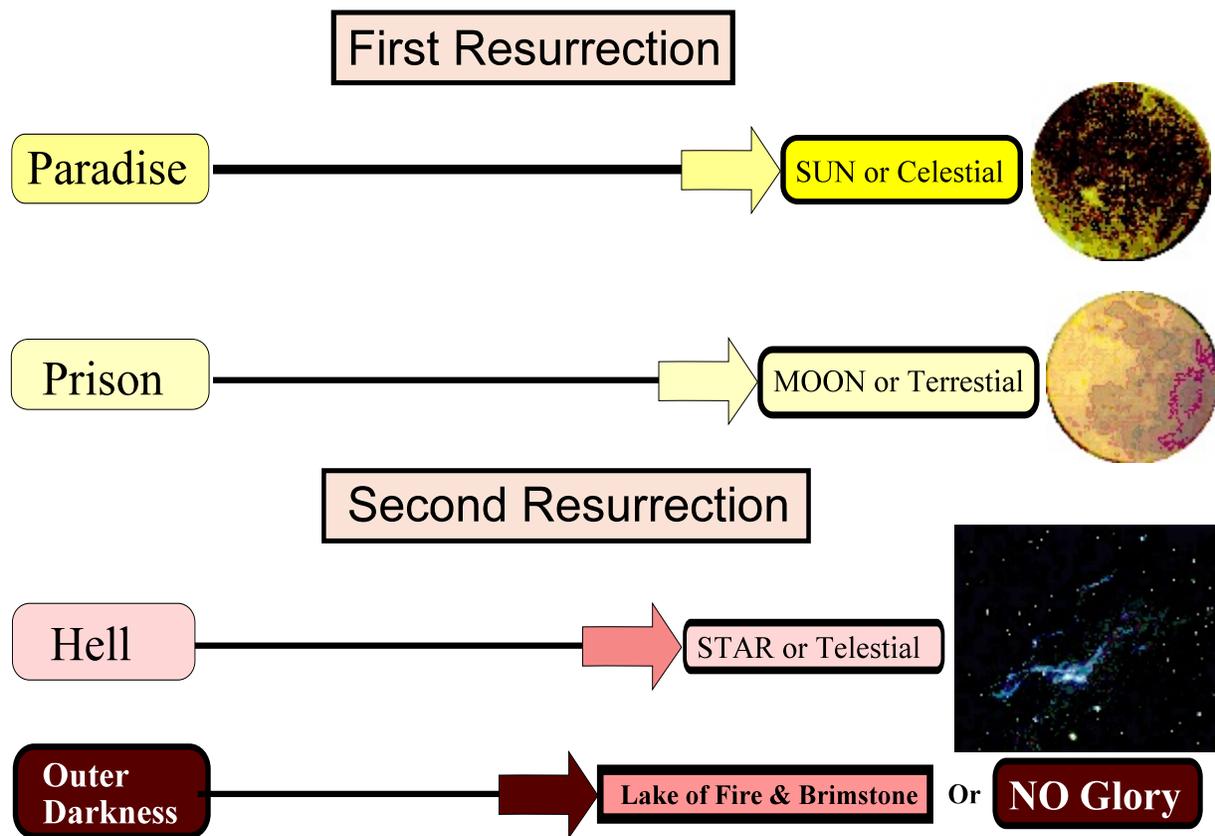


Chapter 20 [part 3]

In [part 2] of this chapter numerous scriptures were used to show that when one dies he will go to one of four places, namely Paradise, Prison, Hell, or Outer Darkness. The one to which he is sent depends largely upon the quality of life he lived during his stay on earth. And this being true, it would logically follow that after the final judgement he would go to one of four places to spend his life in eternity. Put another way, each of the four places to which one may go at death has a corresponding place which will become his eternal home after the final judgement.

A very popular saying in this day and age is that “a picture is worth a thousand words;” so before we get into the scriptures which define each of these final and eternal destinations, lets look at a picture, or diagram, that depicts each destination and it’s previous corresponding temporary home.

Overview of the Glories



By the end of this chapter it should be plainly seen that the popular “death and hell” concept of life after death is merely a fable. Paul, the only early disciples to present the “different glories” concept, may have had this in mind when he wrote; “the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” [2 Tim 4:3-4]

[D&C 108:10d-11a] The graves of the saints shall be opened, and they shall come forth and stand on the right hand of the Lamb, when he shall stand upon Mount Zion, and upon the holy city, the New Jerusalem, and they shall sing the song of the Lamb day and night for ever and ever. [11a] And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fullness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity, to prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth. [D&C 66:1b]

So, in this [part 3] of [Revelation 20], lets scrutinize the glories Paul wrote about to the saints in Corinth, as found in [1 Corinthians 15:35-40-44], to see what kind of people will inhabit them.

Celestial Glory

[D&C 76:5a-r] And again, we bear record for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ, concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just:

[5b] They 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,

[5c] and **receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands** of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

[5d] and **who overcome by faith**, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true;

[5e] they are **they who are the church of the Firstborn**; **inserts*

[D&C 85:1c-2A] 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, which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John. [2a] This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even **the glory of the celestial kingdom; which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn**, even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ, his Son;

[D&C 42:4-5a] I say unto you that it shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, except he be ordained by some one who has authority, and it is known to the church that he has authority, and has been regularly ordained by the heads of the church. [5a] And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in which is the fullness of the gospel;

This certainly leaves out all other denominational ministers! **see [Matthew 7:30-33]*

**continue*

[5f] they are they into whose hands the Father has given all things;

[5g] they are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fullness, and of his glory, and are priests of the Most High after the order of Melchisedec, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the only begotten Son:

[5j] these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever:

[5k] these are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven, to reign on the earth over his people;

[5l] these are they who shall have part in the first resurrection;

[5m] these are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just;

[5n] these are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all;

[5o] these are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn;

[5p] these are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all;

[5q] these are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood;

[5r] **these are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God the highest of all;** whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.

[D&C 85:4a-7] Now, verily I say unto you, that through the redemption which is made for you, is brought to pass the resurrection from the dead. And **the spirit and the body is the soul of man.** [4b] And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul; and the redemption of the soul is through him who quickens all things, in whose bosom it is decreed, that the poor and the meek of the earth shall inherit it. [4c] Therefore, it must needs be sanctified from all unrighteousness, that it may be prepared for the **celestial glory;** for after it has filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father; [4d] **that bodies who are of the celestial kingdom may possess it for ever and ever;** for, for this intent was it made and created; and for this intent they are sanctified.

[6a] And again, verily I say unto you, The earth abides the law of a celestial kingdom, for it fills the measure of its creation, and transgresses not the law. [6b] Wherefore, it shall be sanctified; yea, notwithstanding it shall die, it shall be quickened again, and shall abide the power by which it is quickened, **and the righteous shall inherit it:** [6c] for, notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again a spiritual body: they who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body, which was a natural body: even you shall receive your bodies, and **your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened.** [6d] You who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness;

[D&C 85:26d-27d] And he shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it. [27a] And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled; [27b] and the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened, and be caught up to meet him. [27c] And they who have slept in their graves, shall come forth; for their graves shall be opened, and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven: **they are Christ's, the first fruits:** [27d] they who shall descend with him first, and they who are on the earth, and in their graves, who are first caught up to meet him; and all this by the voice of the sounding of the trump of the angel of God.

[D&C 45:7a-10a] But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trump, and the saints that have slept, shall come forth to meet me in the cloud; [7b] wherefore if you have slept in peace, blessed are you, for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall you come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected, and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth. [8a] Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations, and then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in twain, and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro;

Terrestrial Glory

[D&C 85:28a] And after this, another angel shall sound, which is the second trump; and then comes the redemption of those who are Christ's at his coming; [28b] **who have received their part in that prison which is prepared for them, that they might receive the gospel, and be judged according to men in the flesh.**

[D&C 45:9a-10a] [9a] And then shall the Jews look upon me and say, What are these wounds in thy hands, and in thy feet? [9b] Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them, These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. [9c] I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God. [9d] And then shall they weep because of their iniquities; then shall they lament because they persecuted their King. [10a] **And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection;** and it shall be **tolerable for them;* and Satan shall be bound that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men. **the earth is not yet the celestial kingdom*

[D&C:85:5b] ... he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom, can not abide a celestial glory;

[D&C 76:6a-h] And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and, behold, and lo; [6b] these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn, who have received the fullness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun of the firmament. [6c] Behold, these are they who died without law; and also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it;

[6d] these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men:

[6e] these are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness;

[6f] these are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father; wherefore they are bodies terrestrial, and not bodies celestial, and differ in glory as the moon differs from the sun;

[6g] these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.

[6h] And now this is the end of the vision which we saw of the terrestrial, that the Lord commanded us to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

Telestial Glory

[**D&C 85:29a**] And again, another trump shall sound, which is the third trump: and then comes the spirits of men who are to be judged, and are found under condemnation: [**29b**] and these are the rest of the dead, and they live not again until the thousand years are ended, neither again, until the end of the earth.

[**D&C 43:5a-5c**] Hearken, for, behold, the great day of the Lord is nigh at hand. [**5b**] For the day is coming that the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven; the heavens shall shake and the earth shall tremble, and the trump of God shall sound both long and loud, and shall say to the sleeping nations; [**5c**] You saints arise and live; You sinners stay and sleep until I shall call again: wherefore gird up your loins, lest you be found among the wicked. Lift up your voices and spare not.

[**D&C 45:8b-c**] and the heavens also shall shake, and the Lord shall utter his voice and all the ends of the earth shall hear it, and the nations of the earth shall mourn, [**8c**] and they that have laughed shall see their folly, and calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed,

[**D&C 85:5b**] ... he who can not abide the law of a terrestrial kingdom, can not abide a terrestrial glory.

[**D&C 76:7a-f**] And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differs from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament; [**7b**] these are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus; [**7c**] these are they who deny not the Holy Spirit; [**7d**] these are they who are thrust down to hell; [**7e**] these are they who shall not be redeemed from the Devil, until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished his work; [**7f**] these are they who receive not of his fullness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial; and the terrestrial through the ministration of the celestial: and also the telestial receive it of the administering of angels, who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them, for they shall be heirs of salvation. [**7g**] And thus we saw in the heavenly vision, the glory of the telestial which surpasses all understanding; and no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it. [**7h**] And thus we saw the glory of the terrestrial, which excels in all things the glory of the telestial, even in glory, and in power, and in might, and in dominion. [**7i**] And thus we saw the glory of the celestial, which excels in all things; where God, even the Father, reigns upon his throne for ever and ever, before whose throne all things bow in humble reverence and give him glory for ever and ever. [**7j**] They who dwell in his presence are the church of the First-born; and they see as they are seen, and know as they are known, having received of his fullness and of his grace; and he makes them equal in power, and in might, and in dominion. [**7k**] And the glory of the celestial is one, even as the glory of the sun is one. And the glory of the terrestrial is one, even as the glory of the moon is one.

[7l] And the glory of the telestial is one, even as the glory of the stars is one, for as one star differs from another star in glory, even so differs one from another in glory in the telestial world; for these are they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and of Cephas;

[7m] these are they who say they are some of one and some of another, some of Christ, and some of John, and some of Moses, and some of Elias; and some of Esais, and some of Isaiah, and some of Enoch, but received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets; neither the everlasting covenant;

[7n] last of all, these all are they who will not be gathered with the saints, to be caught up unto the church of the Firstborn, and received into the cloud;

[7o] these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie;

[7p] these are they who suffer the wrath of God on the earth;

[7q] these are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire;

[7r] these are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God until the fullness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under his feet, and shall have perfected his work, when he shall deliver up the kingdom and present it unto the Father spotless, saying:

[7s] I have overcome and have trodden the wine press alone, even the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God; then shall he be crowned with the crown of his glory, to sit on the throne of his power to reign for ever and ever.

[7t] But, behold, and lo, we saw the glory and the inhabitants of the telestial world, that they were as innumerable as the stars in the firmament of heaven, or as the sand upon the seashore, and heard the voice of the Lord saying:

[7u] These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne for ever and ever;

[7v] for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works, and his own dominion, in the mansions which are prepared, and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end.

There is genre of people, however, who will not inherit any of these glories because their behavior was such that they will not merit a reward of glory. The scriptures refer to their inheritance in eternity as a place of “no glory” which is more commonly known as the “lake of fire and brimstone.”

No Glory/Fire and Brimstone

[D&C 85:30] And another trump shall sound, which is the fourth trump, saying, These are found among those who are to remain until that great and last day, even the end, **who shall remain filthy still.**

[2 Nephi 6:36-40] When **all men** shall have passed from this first death unto life, insomuch as they have become immortal, they must appear before the judgment seat of the Holy One of Israel; [37] And then comes the judgment; and then must they be judged according to the holy judgment of God. [38] And assuredly, as the Lord lives, for the Lord God has spoken it, and it is his eternal word, which can not pass away, that they who are righteous shall be righteous still, and **they who**

are filthy shall be filthy still; [39] Wherefore, **they who are filthy are the devil and his angels;** [40] And they shall go away into everlasting fire, prepared for them; and their torment is **as** a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames ascend up for ever and ever; and has no end. [**Mormon 4:74**]

[**D&C 45:8c**] ... they that have watched for iniquity, shall be hewn down and cast into the fire.

[**D&C 85:5b-c**] he who can not abide the law of a telestial kingdom, cannot abide a telestial glory: therefore, he is not meet for a kingdom of glory. [**5c**] Therefore, he must abide a kingdom which is not a kingdom of glory.

[**D&C 85:6c-7**] for, notwithstanding they die, they also shall rise again a spiritual body: they who are of a celestial spirit shall receive the same body, which was a natural body: even you shall receive your bodies, and your glory shall be that glory by which your bodies are quickened. [**6d**] You who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness; [**6e**] and they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: [**6f**] and also they who are quickened by a portion of the telestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: [**6g**] and they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received. [7] For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift.

In closing, we shall use a few scriptures that recaps somewhat that which we have covered and at the same time present a small overview of death and life. The scriptures used in this writing are not all inclusive. There are others that could have been used but in order not to be too repetitive, the following were thought to be the most descriptive.

[**Alma 8:98-107**] For behold, **the day is coming that all shall rise from the dead** and stand before God, and be judged according to their works. [**99**] Now there is a death which is called a temporal death; and the death of Christ shall loose the bands of this temporal death, that all shall be raised from this temporal death; [**100**] **The spirit and the body shall be reunited again,** in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; [**101**] And we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt. [**102**] Now this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, **both the wicked and the righteous;** ... [**104**] And shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil. [**105**] Now behold I have spoken unto you concerning the death of the mortal body, and also concerning the resurrection of the mortal body. [**106**] I say unto you, that this mortal body is raised to an immortal body; that is from death; even from the first death, unto life, that they can die no more; their spirits uniting with their bodies, never to be divided; [**107**] Thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption. [**2 Nephi 6:41-48**]

[**Jacob 2:64-65**] O my brethren, hearken unto my word; arouse the faculties of your soul; shake yourselves, that you may awake from the slumber of death; [65] And loose yourselves from the pains of hell, that you may not become angels to the devil, **to be cast into that lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**

But there is hope beyond the grave just as Paul said, “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruit of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive.**” And he testified to Timothy that; “we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, **specially of those that believe.**” [**1 Timothy 4:10**]

“Specially of those that believe,” conveys the idea that there are different degrees of salvation, not just heaven and hell as many would have us believe. Paul wrote that “he knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, he could not tell; or whether out of the body, he could not tell; God knows;) such a one was caught up to the third heaven.” [**2 Corinthians 12:2**]

Remember also that Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth concerning the resurrection that there are “**celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another.** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead.** [**1 Corinthians 15:40-42**]

[**Alma 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.

[**Mormon 10:31**] And now I (Moroni) bid unto all, farewell. **I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite,** and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen.

[**John 5:24-29**] ... He who hears my word, and believes on him who sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into life. [25] Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they who hear shall live.** [26] For as the Father has life in himself, so has he given to the Son to have life in himself; [27] And has given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of Man. [28] Marvel not at this; for **the hour is coming, in the which all who are in their graves shall hear his voice.** [29] And shall come forth; they who have done good, in the resurrection of the just; and they who have done evil, in the resurrection of the unjust.

[**John 11:25-26**] Jesus said unto (Martha), I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believes in me, **though he were dead,** yet shall he live; [26] And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. “*Jesus went and preached to spirits in prison; some of whom were disobedient in days of Noah.*” [**1 Peter 3:18-20**]

The gospel is going to be preached to people even after they die! Why? So they can be “judged according to men in the flesh, but live in the spirit according to the will of God.” Everyone must have a chance, at some point in time, to hear the gospel before they can make a decision to reject it or accept it. Only then can their reward, or punishment, be just. If a person is punished for something he had no control over, would God be a just God? Conversely, if their reward is to have meaning, it must be based upon the degree of their willingness to respond to the gospel. Only then can the resurrection accomplish the purposes that God fashioned it to do.

However, in order for this doctrine to make sense, one must understand that when all people stand before God at the final judgement they will be rewarded according to their works done in the flesh.
* this will be more fully explored in [part 4] of this chapter

[**Matthew 7:30**] For the day is soon coming, that men shall come before me to judgment, to be judged according to their works. [**Revelation 20:12-13**]

[**3 Nephi 11:32**] ... unto the great and last day, when all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil. *[this is verified numerous times in the scriptures]*