



# Latter Days

An Insider's Guide to Mormonism, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Coke Newell

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

**Coke Newell**, a convert in his late teens to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the journalism program at Colorado State University. For most of a decade a media spokesman for the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, he has authored or contributed to a number of books and periodicals, and has been quoted extensively on Church policy, history, and doctrine.

## Coke Newell quotes

### Chapter 1- A Heavenly Start

Pg. 7- long ago, you and I were born as spirit children of God and, naturally, a Goddess, actual beings of glorified human form and substance. Our home and theirs was a brilliant orb, a crystalline sphere, where the pure light of the greatest of all stars, Kolob, shone endlessly. Time on that planet-star, our Kolob-blessed home, was unmeasured and largely irrelevant. Irrelevant but for our date with destiny.

Pg. 8- Unlike our Father and Mother, we were spirit only, unadorned with the perfected, glorious bodies they had achieved through a process we would yet learn about. We were potential heirs, not equals. Our eternal progression required that we, like they had done successfully before us, leave our heavenly home, take a physical body, and pass through the memory-veiled testing grounds of a mortal probation.

...a Grand Council was convened. There with all of us present, the plan for our progression was presented: an earth, a mortal trial, and an evaluation. (see Abraham 3:24-25)

Pg 9- From those elements, human beings would be formed, gods in embryo, our immortal spirits to be clothed with the dust of the earth, and all memories of our former existence in the presence of God to be shut out.

We would be left to face the trials of mortality and prove our mettle as gods-in-process.

(Satan)- At that, another son of God arose, this one also a “son of morning”. Forever rebellious, and outrageous in his arrogance, this brother we called Lucifer proposed to save us all, to bring home every mortal sojourner, regardless of merit of effort.

Pg 10- Of course, these humans would be granted agency, the right and the power to choose. Certainly, some would choose poorly. 2 things would strengthen our chances. 1<sup>st</sup>, an enlightening voice, a whisper in our minds, would speak to us as the voice of conscience; obedient response to it would **earn** us the right to an even greater enlightenment, the directing presence or power of **another Son of God**, the Holy Ghost, who would lead the **progressively** obedient back to a full knowledge, even a lifting of the veil of memory. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jehovah himself would come to earth... 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels <sup>[a]</sup> shouted for joy?

But Lucifer bellowed once again, protesting this acquiescent offer. "I will bring them all," he bragged to the Father, bring them all back regardless of their personal effort or any shade of personal valiance developed...But then, "Here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost. And surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor." Moses 4:1

(Satan and the fallen angels)- Having rejected the eternal plan of heaven, these objectors selected the alternative: never would they take upon themselves a mortal body to complete the course toward Godhood. .. rejected the opportunity for eternal progression before even having attempted it.

Pg. 12- Many (in heaven) wept over their fallen kin, their unfaithful brothers and sisters.

The Father then granted full power and authority to (Jehovah or Jesus in premortal form) effectuate the creation of the earth (and innumerable others).

## Chapter 2- The Choice

Pg. 13- ...Joseph, 29 yrs. Old and married, was then living.

Through a process of study and inspiration similar to that with which he had previously translated the Book of Mormon, he shortly thereafter announced that portions of papyrus found within the mummies contained some writings of the patriarch Abraham, and another, those of Joseph, both of whom had lived in Egypt. From those papyri descended, in 1842, The Book of Abraham, **from which much of the foregoing Latter-Day Saint doctrine regarding the creation is known.**

1<sup>st</sup> Presidency Minutes April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1931- "Leave geology, biology, archeology, and anthropology, no one of which has to do with the salvation of the souls of mankind, to scientific research, while we magnify our calling in the realm of the Church..."Neither side of the controversy (creationism versus science) has been accepted as a doctrine at all."

The God's... (*Justification passage in Bible 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:5-6*)

Pg. 15- From the elements of the earth, Michael, now to be called Adam, the "first man"

Pg.16- At some point following physical maturity, they were commanded to "multiply and replenish the earth". That however was **an impossibility**. They were not yet mortal, and the autonomous (*able to make decisions and act on them as a free and independent moral agent*) expansion of their species was out of their reach...having learned of choice, they were presented with accountability. It would change eternity.

Thus was introduced the great dilemma: Adam and Eve had been commanded to produce and bear children, thus fulfilling one step of their own creation and enabling a critical component in the creation of the earth. Yet as immortal beings-some pure essence flowing through their veins of earthly element-they could not reproduce. **In their current state, offspring was impossible.**

Pg. 17- So was it a sin?

To the contrary, the "transgression" of Adam and Eve was **in fact a brilliant move**, a bit of prescient **genius** (on the part of Eve primarily). The 1<sup>st</sup> command they were given was to multiply, to engender

earth-offspring... Yet God, being God, an immortal, perfect being, could not tell his creation to enact a fall from immortality. The created would have to see the wisdom of pursuing such a course on their own. And they did.

Nephi 2:25 "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy."

All was well. Mortality was planned, initiated, and underway.

### **Chapter 3- The Place Where Adam Dwelt**

Pg. 18- Joseph Smith referred to Jackson County, Missouri, as the ancient site of Eden as early as 1832. Specifically named was an area within today's Kansas City suburb of Independence.

Pg. 19- Latter Day Saints teach without reservation that the entire gospel plan- the Christian gospel- was known and practiced by Adam and Eve.

Pg. 20- Thus from the beginning Adam knew and taught to his children:

- A Savior Jesus Christ would come to earth...(Moses 5:57)
- Declare the gospel of repentance and salvation
- Establish an church
- Resurrection
- And to work out an atonement for the mistakes wrought by every man and woman throughout the course of earths history...atonement would be available to all, but of effect those who would repent and come to God through specific heaven-ordained ordinances and consecrations administered by those holding the authority.

Pg. 20- With time, and angelic tutoring they came to understand...the wisdom of Eve's transgression. (see Moses 5:10-11)

Pg. 23- He had fulfilled his mission, and fulfilled it well. He would yet return to the earth in glory.

### **Chapter 4- Oh, Israel**

Pg. 24- Ten generations from Adam, the valiant premortal spirit known as Gabriel was born into mortality...who named him Noah.

Pg. 26- Perhaps the most unique thing LDS adds to the Noah story is that it at least began on the American continent. (Mississippi River basin)

Pg. 28- Approximately in 600BC a prophet in Jerusalem named Lehi warned by the Lord of the coming destruction of the city led his family away and into the wilderness. (Later went on a ship to the Americas)...a thousand years after that, the remnant of their people would become known as the American Indians.

Bottom Line: Members of the LDS church are children of Israel. (Descended from Joseph)

Prevailing LDS thought is that even those joining the church in the most desperate of places are in fact literal blood descendants or they never would have responded to the message of the Gospel in the first place. (John 10:27 used as Biblical reference)

Pg.29- the Lord God took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also meaning the High or Melchizedek priesthood. Only the lesser Aaronic or Levitical priesthood, that priesthood capable of administering the outward or temporal matters of worship the Mosaic Law remained. (Doctrine & Covenants 84:22-25)

## Chapter 5- The fulcrum of time

Pg.33- Jehovah of the OT, and the God and Creator of this earth, condescended toward his sojourn upon it, foreordained to be the Savior of all created.

Jesus was the Son of God, (not of Joseph, not of the Holy Ghost) (how about Mt 1:18-20)

Adam cursed none of us with original sin. (How about Romans 5:19)...we don't even call it a sin, and he certainly didn't burden us with any.

Pg. 39- We thus recognize Peter as the Prophet, and presiding high priest of the Melchizedek priesthood, and the only mortal being holding the keys of its use and administration. (Authority given at the mount of Transfiguration)

Pg. 40-Peter would be the last man to exercise the keys of the presidency of the high priesthood for 1,800 years.

Pg. 42- The atonement for the sins of man was effectuated primarily in the Garden of Gethsemane...

Pg. 43- But universal resurrection is not synonymous with universal salvation.

(the teaching is that Jesus made atonement for our sin which in turn has broken the pains of death resulting in a resurrection for every mortal person)

Pg. 43- At the point of Christ physical death...his premortal spirit...as Jehovah- went to a world of spirits.

The gracious promise has engendered in much of Christian theology the idea that a deathbed repentance is sufficient to land one in heaven alongside Christ. This idea is insupportably ambitious, if not downright silly.

Pg. 45- Here then was Paradise: a spirit world inhabited by innumerable beings who had lived honorable lives, or lives of some conscious effort toward good...Clearly, millions in the history of the earth have never heard the specifics of Christian theology nor been afforded the chance to fulfill its covenantal obligation such as baptism. They will, even though they be "dead". And they will be accorded the opportunity to accept it or reject it.

But from among the righteous, Christ organized his forces and appointed messengers, clothed with power and authority, and commissioned them to go forth and carry the light of the gospel to them that were in darkness (a realm since referred to LDS as spirit prison) Doctrines and Covenants Section 138

and thus the gospel was preached to the dead.

Pg. 46- Those in the spirit world, whether Paradise or prison, would hear the gospel of the Son of God; they would be given the opportunity to accept it. Ordinances of earth would one day be performed vicariously in their behalf: baptism, marriage, the eternal linking of family ties. But as in mortality, they would be free to choose or reject such efforts.

Pg. 47-Upon the completion of this labor, he returned triumphant to his Father, there to receive his body once again, now glorified, perfected and immutably eternal. He became an exalted man: A God.

With his won perfected body, this Jesus then visited the American continent. As the apostle John would testify in his record, “other sheep” would soon see the glory of the Resurrected Son of God with their own eyes.

## Chapter 6- Christ in America

Pg. 49- Joseph Smith: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (DHC 4:461)

The book of Mormon, like the Bible, is a compilation of the writings- historic and prophetic- of heaven inspired men; specifically the heaven authorized ones known as prophets.

It is a history and spiritual testament of 2 separate groups of people who crossed the ocean by sea and settled in the ancient Americas; one group approx. 2200BC to 300BC and the other (most being descendants of Joseph who was sold into Egypt) from 592BC to AD 421.

Unlike many versions of the Bible it was source translated only once, from its original “reformed Egyptian” into English. That translation was done by Joseph Smith through “the gift and power of God” and some ancient interpreters known as the Urim and Thummim

Pg. 53- Baptism, the essential portal through which one officially enters the pathway that leads to eternal life (it does nothing to guarantee it.)

Consequently, no one is accepted for baptism into the LDS church before the age of 8, which was revealed in 1831 as the age at which the Lord will begin to hold children, and not their parents, responsible for their actions.

Among these ancient Americans, as among their counterparts in Palestine, the Savior instituted the blessing and partaking of the sacramental emblems: bread & wine.

Pg. 54- The essentiality of proper authority for administering his church, it's ordinance, and teachings was made very clear..."Wherefore, although a man should be baptized a hundred times (by one not holding proper authority), it availeth him nothing..." (Doctrines and Covenants 22:2)

## **Chapter 7- OF Peter, Popes and Prophets**

Pg. 58- "The Lord God will do noting but he reavealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7) God makes the decision and notifies his prophets, who notifies the people. No other course of action is authentic or authorized.

Pg. 59- As long as there are prophets on the earth, the Lord will continue to reveal his mind and will unto them, and they, in turn will be obligated to pass along the information as commanded. And it would all be scripture. Inexplicably, the exact same process by which the New Testament record was written would...

Doctrine and Covenants 68:4 "whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Spirit shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation".

Pg. 60- To the LDS it means the church established by the Savior ceased to exist as an authoritative body well before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, a course full expected by the premortal Jehovah and mentioned by his prophets four centuries preceding...But they (church leaders) had no keys and little authority.

## **Chapter 8- Angels on the Earth**

Pg. 65- LDS youth learn it like this: there are only two possibilities for the existence of an authorized legal Christian church today: one descended through an unbroken papal line from Peter (received the keys to the kingdom along with James & John at the Mt. of Transfiguration, Beau), the prophet of God or one re-emergent from the ground up which would, of course, require heavenly authorization...(and that's exactly what happened).

We disagree with some of Protestant and Catholic doctrine. But no, we do not disregard their principles, their effectiveness in lifting the souls of people, nor their selfless work throughout the earth in the name of the same God we worship.

The post apostolic age seen as the "Great Apostasy" pg. 66

Pg. 66- And there was the real problem: no authority from heaven.

Pg. 67- Following the personal return of God and Jesus Christ to the earth in April 1820 the guesswork was over.

The chronological duration of Joseph's visitation whether measured in minutes or hours, is not known, but the identity of the messengers was made very clear to him: God the Eternal Father and Jesus Christ the Son, the Messiah...

Pg. 69- In the strong voice of a man, which he clearly was, the personage called Joseph by name and introduced himself as Moroni.

Pg. 70- He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates...

(From what Mormon called "reformed Egyptian")

Published in 1830...The entire translation of the Book of Mormon record would take fewer than ninety days.

A minimum of 14 people besides J.S. would see, and most would handle, the plates it was written on...Eleven witnesses testified in print that they had "seen and hefted" the plates...Although six would leave the church over other matters, not one would ever retract this testimony.

Pg. 71- The messenger who visited us on this occasion...said that his name was John...(John the Baptist)...With little ado that we know of, the resurrected key-holding high priest of the Levitical order laid his hands upon the 2 and said Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the Gospel of Repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins...

Joseph Records: He said this Aaronic Priesthood had not the power of laying on hands for the gift of the holy Ghost but that this should be conferred on us hereafter

Thus Joseph and Oliver were now authorized to do exactly as the messenger who ordained them had anciently done: preach repentance, baptize, call for the blessing of angels-and wait.

Pg. 72- Alost immediately upon returning to their translation labors, says Joseph, "we began to have the Scriptures laid open to our understandings, and the true meaning and intention of their more mysterious passages reveled unto us in a manner which we never cold attain to previously nor ever before had thought of."

And then, approximately two weeks later, the long-promised happened: in a secluded woods on the Susqwehanna River somewhere South of Colesville, New York, the ancient apostles Peter, James, and John the Beloved, the 1<sup>st</sup> two now glorious resurrected beings (and John still in an immortal yet pre-resurrected state), appeared in the flesh before Joseph and Oliver and conferred upon them the Melchizedek priesthood, the keys of the presidency, and ordained them to the holy apostleship, with Peter acting as voice.

...having help in reserve the keys of their ministry for nearly 18 centuries, of John the Baptist, holding likewise the keys of his; and of Moroni, who over the course of 6 years would visit JS more than 20 times, JS would proclaim the opening of a new and comprehensive gospel era. It was the dawning of the "dispensation of the fullness of times," said Joseph, a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys and powers and glories....revealed from the days of Adam even to the present time.

Pg. 73- Some of that revelation would come direct from heaven, as Joseph's journey with angels was far from over, but much of it would come straight from the ancient manuscript now in his possession. In the 6 years between Moroni's first visit in 1823 and his final in 1829, Joseph would learn much more than doctrine. According to his mother, Lucy, Moroni and at least one additional Book of Mormon prophet functioned as private tutors.

...He (JS) would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of traveling, and the animals upon which they rode, their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare, and also their religious worship. This he would do with much ease...

Pg. 74- The first 5000 copies of the Book of Mormon were offered for sale on March 26, 1830...Joseph and 5 others fulfilling the requirements for the state of NY, formally organized the Church of LDS in a small log home near Fayette, NY. Among the 5 was JS younger brother, Samuel, and his oldest brother, Hyrum.

Pg. 76- It was not uncommon in the earliest of days of the movement for a man to hear Mormonism preached one day, be baptized the next, be ordained an elder on the following day and the day after that be out preaching Mormonism.

For this particular brother of Phineas Young (Brigham Young), the process took a little longer. Reading the book 9 times over the next year and a half, studying it from every angle and with mighty prayer, he eventually requested baptism.

...the foundational tenet made crystal clear in the ordinations under the hands of the ancients was that the house of God was a house of order: one man received revelations for the church as a whole.

(Doctrines and Covenants 28:2-7) "Behold, verily, verily, I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith,...for he receiveth them even as Moses. And thou shalt be obedient unto the things which I shall give unto him, even as Aaron, to declare faithfully the commandments and the revelations...For I have given him the keys of the mysteries, and the revelations which are sealed, until I shall appoint unto them another in his stead." That one man, and one only, would be recognized as qualified to say "this saith the Lord" is a foundational tenant of Mormonism,...

Pg. 77-For nearly 15 years, it appeared to the LDS that he would be the prophet, the only prophet, and the last prophet before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ...

...a single individual would in fact preside over the church.

In one of the most pivotal moments in church history, he was, once again, with Oliver Cowdery.

Pg. 78- Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the 4 parts of the earth, and the leading of the 10 tribes of the north. After this Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed. After this...Elijah the prophet, "Behold the time has fully come, which was

spoken of by the mouth of Malachi, testifying that I should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, come, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children etc...

Pg. 79- They (Moses, Elias, and Elijah) held their own keys, meaning “the privilege and authority to administer in the ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ”, (JS Gospel Doctrine 5<sup>th</sup> ed, pg 142) from their own ministrations upon the earth.

With the keys long held, and now bestowed by Elias, Joseph (remember converted Mormons come from the line of Joseph) could rightfully extend the covenant blessings of Abraham...

With those conferred by Moses...

Pg. 80-...(Moses) that great prophet of Israel, Joseph could begin gathering those of the covenant long since scattered like wayward sheep to all quarters of the globe. All with those bestowed by Elijah, who as a translated being (immortal but not resurrected) had a unique relationship to both the living and the dead, he could begin the work of salvation for the dead.

The performing of ordinances of salvation for those who were already dead.

That in fact is the doctrine, and Elijah came restoring the keys to begin it anew for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since Paul’s era in which it was a functioning but fading effort among the saints of his day.

Pg. 81- The restored Christianity had come at the hands of the authorized servants who had last administered it.

The new Camp of Israel was about to be expelled from Egypt, forced into a mass Exodus for which there is no parallel in American history.

## **Chapter 9- The Untold Story**

Pg. 84- By the summer of 1831, JS had designated Jackson County, Missouri, as Zion, the true gathering place, where they would build up the New Jerusalem and establish “the land of our inheritance.” Hundreds of converts began flowing toward that western frontier. (Doctrine & Covenants 57)

Many of the early and fundamental doctrines of the church were established in Kirtland.

By the fall of that year, the LDS in Missouri-now a third of the population in that region- were being driven from their homes by guntoting neighbors and at least one, Bishop Edward Partridge, was hot-tarred and feathered.

Pg. 86- These would be exclusively for settlement of LDS, who would have their own militia and their own representation in the state legislature.

Pg.88- A band of marauding locals dropped by a secluded Mormon homestead and abducted the 3 occupants at gunpoint.

Minutes later, one Missourian and 3 LDS lay dead. A dozen were wounded.

Pg. 89- ...he (Liburn W. Boggs) issued his infamous, "Extermination Order"

Pg. 90- Missouri state militia took 240 men and attacked the tiny LDS settlement of Haun's Mill...

Pg. 92- leave the state forthwith

Pg. 93- 12,000 LDS began preparing for the exodus from Missouri.

The saints turned to Brigham Young, who now, following the death of David Patten at Crooked River, was the senior apostle still in full church fellowship.

## **Chapter 10- The road to Carthage**

Pg. 99- They found it some 50 miles north where a paper town named Commerce had not yet taken hold. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, they purchased from 2 brothers 660 acres of swampy ground bordering the Mississippi River. They named it Nauvoo and began draining the swamps.

Thus to Nauvoo, which Joseph said was a Hebrew derivative meaning "a beautiful location, a place of rest," came the great majority of all LDS converts for the next 7 years, swelling the population by 1846 to between 15000 & 17000, only slightly behind Chicago.

One is called to duty by those in authority over him or her. One can refuse, make excuses, or flat out say no. The underlying theology is that the Lord directs his church through revelation to leaders, one at a time, ...

Pg. 100- Rising from bluff overlooking the river, the Nauvoo temple would consume much of the energy of the people over the next 6 years...

At the beginning of temple construction they were asked to contribute one-tenth of all funds then in their possession...

Pg. 101- Temples are not open to the public except during open houses which precede their dedication. Once dedicated, only LDS who attain a certain and prescribed level of faithfulness-payment of a full tithe, observance of the healthy code, strict observance of the law of chastity and fidelity, support of church leaders and a commitment of Christian conduct-qualify for entrance.

The theology behind temples-sanctuaries for the offering and receiving of the highest and holiest of LDS ordinances-developed gradually through a number of years, but primarily during the Kirtland and Nauvoo eras. In January 1841, Joseph scribed a revelation in which the Lord told him that "there is not a place found on earth that that he (The Most High) may come to and restore again that which was lost unto you, or which he hath taken away, even the fullness of the priesthood." (Doctrines and Covenants 124:28)

The fullness of the priesthood would come soon, and it would include the "sealing" of marriages and families for all eternity and vicarious baptism-an essential ordinance of salvation-for those who die without it (and without proper, authorized baptism at that).

Pg. 102- Temples of the LDS church are considered by us, The House of God, among the most sacred places on earth, and their ceremonies are the most sacred rites of the faithfulness ever taken by LDS Saints.

We go, we learn we make covenants to be faithful and to consecrate our lives to Christian principles, and we hope we measure up.

Pg. 103- Baptisms for the dead were 1<sup>st</sup> performed in the Mississippi River in August 1840.

Governor Lilburn Boggs assassinated...

The primary suspect was Orrin Porter Rockwell, one of Joseph Smith's bodyguards and one of the original members of the church.

...December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1832...What the voice dictated that Christmas Day eleven years before recorded privately by Joseph secretary, included the following: "For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations. And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their master, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war." (Ibid Vol. 1, Ch 22, p. 302)

Pg. 105- They were talking on the subject of plural marriage...Hyrum very urgently requested Joseph to write the revelation by means of the Urim and Thummim, but Joseph, in reply, said he did not need to, for he knew the revelation perfectly from beginning to end.

Pg. 106- What the Lord told him (JS) we can only suppose from the dictation mentioned above...

Many outside of Nauvoo, and outside the church would soon hear talk of the "principle" as well, but the revelation, now known as Doctrine and Covenants section 132, would not be published until 1852, in Utah.

When Emma was finally shown as early as 1843, she threw it into the lit fireplace without delay.

Pg. 107- Of Joseph, it is written: "He knew the voice of God-he knew the commandment of the Almighty to him was to go forward- to set the example, and establish Celestial plural marriage. He knew that he had not only his own prejudices and pre-possessions combat and to overcome, but those of the whole Christian world....;but God...had given the commandment."

National responses to Mormon polygamy would a few years hence find a substantial voice in the new Republican Party 1856 platform...

Pg. 108- We have a right to our belief in that or any other doctrine... (BH Roberts, Defense of the Faith and the Saints, Vol. 2, pp.331-332)

The record shows that JS was commanded by God, even against his initial will, to begin the practice. Six decades later, another prophet was commanded to end it. And that's really all we know or claim.

Pg. 111- The 1840 LDS really expected the apocalyptic confusion and the Second Coming to be very near.

Pg. 112- The principal pot-stirrers were recent excommunicates...

Pg. 113- When the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the paper, the Expositor, was released on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the community exploded...Joseph Smith was "the biggest villain that goes unhung..."

The council (with JS as mayor...) authorized the removal and destruction of the offending press.

The following day Nauvoo started coming apart.

Pg. 115- (JS) under arrest...The charge was inciting a riot.

Pg. 116- ...The Hancock county seat, where a "mass meeting" ...

...The mad prophet and his demoniac coadjutors... We must resolutely carry the war into the enemy's camp. We must take vengeance, terrible vengeance, should the lives of any of our citizens be lost in the effort...

Pg. 120- The Prophet JS final dictation to his secretary, Willard Richards, records the following: "I told Stephen Markham that if I and Hyrum were ever taken again we should be massacred, or I was not a prophet of God." (Tullidge, Life of Joseph the Prophet, p. 491)

At about 9pm tears streaming down their faces, Joseph and Hyrum bid farewell to their families...

Pg. 123- As the number of Greys offered to greet the Mormons in their way, Ford told them they would have "full satisfaction" in due course.

Pg. 125- Joseph upheld no such illusions for himself, saying he had had a number of premonitions of his impending death.

Pg. 127- Sometime after 5pm, there was a scuffle from downstairs, the sound of gunfire, and a cry of surrender.

Hyrum was shot first, a lead ball smashing in through the left side of his nose.

Joseph, his eyes mostly on his dear brother Hyrum, fired his sex-gun blindly into the stairwell.

Assuming his exit would stop the internal killing; Joseph ran for the window and attempted to jump from it. Two balls from the doorway hit him in the back, and two more fired from outside hit him in the chest. But his momentum carried him through the window and out, where he smashed to the ground 12 feet below. There, according to affidavits, one man grabbed him and set him up against the wall, and several more balls were dispatched into his lifeless body.

...both those who prosecuted the Mormon leaders and those who killed him would all go scot-free.

## **Chapter 11- The Aftermath**

Pg. 131- On the heels of her growing discomfort with the principle of polygamy, her unabashed dislike of senior apostle Brigham Young, and the general confusion as to who now presided over the LDS, Emma began her break from the church.

In the next few months following what LDS would forever after term “The Martyrdom,” Emma Smith and Brigham Young would tug open a breach that would find no repair. Others would jump into it, taking at least a dozen tiny Mormon splinter groups out into Texas, Wis, Mich, and elsewhere in the next few years.

When the “Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of LDS” was officially incorporated in 1860, many of Joseph’s family, including Emma, joined up. The RLDS Church even headquartered itself in Independence, Missouri...

Joseph Smith recorded or referred to having at least 77 vision/conversations with at least 59 separate heavenly beings, including Peter, James, John, John the Baptist, Adam, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Elijah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moroni, Mormon, and Nephi, as well as numerous other resurrected or translated American and Middle Eastern saints.

## **Chapter 12- Prelude to a Finale**

On the eve of the martyrdom, most of the apostles were still in the eastern states preaching and promoting JS candidacy for president of the United States.

Pg. 135- Sidney Rigdon (vice presidential running mate) told them he was ordained to be the guardian of the church, to build it up unto Joseph.

“You (by voting) cannot fill the office of a prophet, seer, and revelator: God must do this.” (History of the Church, Vol. 7, Ch. 19, pg. 233) (Words of Brigham Young)

And there in a nutshell, Brigham Young reiterated a foundational doctrine of Mormonism, one made evident from the 1<sup>st</sup> vision of JS and clarified a number of times in both LDS and (to LDS eyes) biblical scripture.

God calls his prophets. Electioneering is pointless.

Pg. 136- “Looking up quickly we saw form of the Prophet Joseph standing before us Brother Brigham looked and talked so much like Joseph that for a minute we thought it was Joseph.” (Jorgensen, p. 143)

Although this “transfiguration”- interpreted (then and now) as a manifestation of the transfer of the mantle of Prophet to Brigham Young- was seen by everyone in the crowd and not detailed by most until some years later, more than 100 written accounts- 57 of them eyewitness.

From Elijah to Elisha

Pg. 137- All but an estimated twenty (out of 5000) sustained the twelve as the presiding authorities of the church. The twenty wanted Rigdon. Rigdon wanted none of it. He would be excommunicated one month later and leave the Saints forever, although he would hold to his testimony of the early years to the end of his life.

Of immediate focus were to be completion of the temple and a renewed emphasis on the tithing of every member or candidate for admission to the church so as to weed out those practicing “mock membership.”

Pg. 138- Yet Brigham’s focus was on the temple, and what the people would get out of completing it: specifically, their “endowment.” As he would later explain, “Your endowment is, to receive all those ordinances in the house of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, being enabled to give them the key words, the signs and tokens, pertaining to the Holy Priesthood, and gain our eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell. (Journal of discourses, Vol 2, p 31, Brigham Young, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1853.

Pg. 142- By early November, Saints throughout the US were being counseled to join with the Nauvoo Saints in their exodus the following spring.

### **Chapter 13- The American Exodus**

Pg. 144- From a later perspective, too, scholars of the Mormon experience have come to see the exodus and colonization of the Great Basin as the single most important influence in molding the Latter-day Saints into a distinctive people.

Pg. 150- “indeed idleness persisted in was made cause or disfellowship from the camp

Pg. 152- You can imagine the reception he got: the nation which had refused to aid them when they were residents now had the audacity to ask for five hundred of their best men to fight in the war against the landlord of the territory to which they were now fleeing for their own safety.

Pg. 153- To Allen (Captain James Allen, US Regular Army) Brigham promised, “You shall have your men, and if we have not enough men we will furnish you women.”

Pg. 156- Many worked to complete the temple, and attended the ongoing ordinance, both for the living and the dead.

Pg. 157- ...most of it Indian reservation, and could therefore be occupied by whites only by permission of the government.

Pg. 158- Soon, several chiefs of the Pottawattamie tribe on the Iowa side of the Missouri were persuaded to sign a permission for the pioneer encampments to occupy “for a time” their lands,...

Pg. 159- The LDS no longer entertained any ideas of finding a permanent residence within the boundaries of then-occupied US territory. The sunset side of the Rockies was the only vision in their minds.

President Young had a vision of Joseph Smith...

Pg. 161- Thus “while the flower of Israel’s camp was sustaining the wings of the American eagle by their influence and arms in a foreign country, their brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and children were driven by mob violence from a free and independent State...”

## **Chapter 14- The Camp of Israel**

Pg. 162- Camp of Israel

This was modern Israel, with its Prophet, its Exodus from bondage, and its sojourn toward the Promise Land well under way.

Already amongst his own people, and within a mere two years among those outside the faith, he as being referred to “the American Moses.”

Pg. 165- In all, upward of 600 people died in the camps by the end of that winter.

Pg. 166- for death was sweeping away its victim and want and suffering seemed staring us in the face...

Young would tell the Winter Quarters Saints that he “did not think there had ever been a body of people...placed under the same unpleasant circumstances that this people have been, where there was so little grumbling.”

Pg. 167- Brigham Young announced to the Saints in Winter Quarters a revelation that would direct the LDS for the next ten months and firmly establish him as the new Joseph Smith.

“The Word and Will of the Lord...”

Pg. 168- “To save my people Israel”

## **Chapter 15- The Road to Zion**

Pg. 181- That evening the England-born and bred William Clayton would write: “When I commune with my won heart and ask myself whether I would choose to dwell here in this wild looking country amongst the Saints surrounded by friends, through poor...or dwell amongst the gentiles with all their wealth and good things of the earth, to be eternally mobbed, harassed, hunted, our best men murdered and ever good man’s life continually in danger, the soft whisper echoes loud and reverberates back in tones of stern determination: give me the quiet wilderness and my family to associate with, surrounded by the Saints and adieu to the gentile world...”

(Brigham Young) “Directed Elder Woodruff, who kindly tendered me the use of his carriage, to turn the same half way round, so I could have a view of a portion of Salt Lake Valley. The Spirit of the Lord rested

upon me and hovered over the valley, and I felt that there the Saints could find protection and safety. We descended and encamped at the foot of the Little Mountain.”

## Chapter 16- Transition

Pg. 184- We read accounts of the flood of immigrants that came in through Ellis Island, but nothing of the twenty thousand residents (most American citizens) who were driven out the opposite side of the country. ...I don't recall ever meeting an actual Mormon until I fell in love with one at 16 (I converted to her faith two years later and married her 5 years after that.)

The next decades would do that for the LDS, making them...a cohesive and singular people as closely defined as any ethnic community on earth.

Pg. 185- At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium...approximately 69% of all LDS in the world are first generation converts due to the Church's expanding growth.

Pg. 186- “Should any ask, ‘what is Zion?’ “they wrote, “tell them in America: and if any ask: ‘what is Zion?’ tell them the pure in heart.”

That same day, 300 miles to the east, Emma Smith remarried in Nauvoo, taking as her husband a non-LDS named Lewis Bidamon with whom she would finish her days. It would have been JS's 42<sup>nd</sup> b-day.

‘Let my servant Brigham step forth and receive the full power of the presiding Priesthood in my Church and kingdom,’ this was the voice of the Almighty unto us.”

Pg. 187- Brigham Young as a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1848...James K. Polk signed the US Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, making the Great Salt Lake part of US territory.

This they (LDS) 1<sup>st</sup> petitioned for statehood in July 1849 and organized a provisional legislature for the “State of Deseret,” a term taken from the Book of Mormon and signifying industry. The proposed boundaries were enormous, ranging from central Oregon to Mexico, and from San Diego to southern Colorado, including portions of nine present-day states, or approximately 490,000 sq. miles. (Historical Atlas of Mormonism. p. 90)

Pg. 188- and they felt safer far in the society of wild Indians and savage wolves than in the midst of the Christian civilization they had left behind.

A Perpetual Emigrating Fund established in 1849 used church assets and private contributions to sponsor emigrants to Salt Lake, Monies were extended as a loan rather than as a gift, and sponsored emigrants signed a note obligating themselves to repay the PEF once having arrived in Utah.

PEF aided more than 30,000 people in traveling to Utah, but the high price of the journey put repayment quite simply beyond the means of most emigrants to this start-from-scratch-land.

Pg. 190- I will tell you all that your faith, religion, and profession of religion will never save one soul of you in the celestial kingdom of our God, unless you carry out just such principles as I am now teaching you. Go and bring in those people now on the Plains. (Brigham Young message to the Assembly in helping those stuck on the trail to Salt Lake)

Pg. 194- the 3 teenagers carried an astonishing number of people across the river.

When President B.Y. heard of this heroic act, "wrote another chronicler, "he wept like a child, and later declared publicly, 'that act alone will ensure (the 3 teenagers named) an everlasting salvation in the Celestial Kingdom of God, worlds without end.

Pg. 1869- transcontinental railroad joined bands in their own Utah territory; an estimated 70,000 converts of the LDS church crossed the plains to the refuge of the Rockies.

Pg. 197- "This heroic episode of Mormon history exemplifies many of the enduring qualities of nascent Mormonism itself: thorough organization, iron discipline, unswerving devotion to a cause, and limitless self-sacrifice."

## **Chapter 17- Give and Take**

Pg. 198- In Sept. 1856, the Utah settlements were about halfway into a 3 year drought, accompanied by a devastating invasion of crop-eating insects.

Re-baptized as a sign of their recommitment.

Pg. 199- In some areas, like Britain, those who were unwilling to recommit through rebaptism were trimmed from the rolls of the church.

Pg. 205- Upon entering the Salt Lake valley in 1847, the contracting of plural marriages became a topic of much more open discussion and practice, although most LDS men never took plural wives...It was, nevertheless one considered among the most sacred of covenants.

With the biblical patriarchs as models, direct revelation as incentive and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution seemingly guaranteeing the effort, the LDS Saints lived the law of plural marriages largely unmolested until 1862.

Pg. 206- President Woodruff issued a press release, now known as "the Manifesto," declaring the church's official cessation of the practice of plural marriage. Five and a half years after that, Utah became the nation's 45<sup>th</sup> state.

The Lord showed me by vision and revelation exactly what would take place if we did not stop this practice. (Doctrine and Covenants Official Declaration-1.)

Pg. 208- There were approximately 25 hundred plural families living in Utah Territory in 1890 when the Manifesto was issued.

Pg. 207- ...since 1904, when the 1<sup>st</sup> Presidency issued a 2<sup>nd</sup> manifesto, any member of the LDS church entering into or living in a polygamous union is excommunicated from the church.

There remain an estimated 30,000 non-Latter-day Saint polys and cohabs in the western US today. Calling themselves Mormon fundamentalist," they feel they are the touchbearers, the brave faithful holding strong in the wake of church presidents who have, one after another since 1890, given in.

As in the days of OT prophets, that practice occurred when it occurred because the Lord said it should.

## **Chapter 18- From Zero to Sixty in 2.2**

Pg. 212- By the end of the nineteenth century, the call to gather to a central Zion was effectively suspended. Some of the reasoning was financial...More importantly, though, the burdens imposed by the federal witch-hunt that preceded and accompanied the fight for statehood placed the church at the verge of bankruptcy.

Lorenzo Snow assumed the church presidency in 1898 at the death of Wilford Woodruff...he suddenly felt a clear and distinct impression to make them a promise, "The time has now come," he said, "for every LDS, who calculates to be prepared for the future and to hold his feet strong upon a proper foundation, to do the will for the Lord and to pay his tithing in full. That is the word of the Lord to you..."

Pg. 217- ...in January 1970, the church was nearing three million members, 70 percent of whom lived in the USA and Canada.

Pg. 218- ...but here's the common denominator of lasting conversion in the whole Mormon experience, learned by every nineteen-year old missionary fresh from his mama's hearth: "Take our word for nothing. Go to God in prayer, and ask him if what we've told you is true."

Since 1840, men of black African lineage had not been allowed to hold the lay priesthood in the church. Although a few had done so in the early years, the restriction appears to have become total by the time the Saints entered the Salt Lake valley in 1847.

There is a single reason the LDS kept their black members from holding the priesthood and that is because the Lord said through his prophets (12 of them) that it would be so. The reasons behind the Lord's decision we can only wonder at, and that's exactly what many have done.

Pg. 219- On June 8, 1978..."The long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priesthood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy with his loved ones every blessing that flows therefrom, including the blessing of the temple. Accordingly, all worthy male members of the Church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color" (Doctrines and Covenants No. 2)

Pg. 220- that Columbus was led here to this undiscovered country by God: that the revolutionary severing from England and the founding of the US were in fact essential steps in the restoration process.

Pg. 221- "And for this purpose I (God) established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this every purpose" (Doctrines and Covenants 101:77-80)

Wilford Woodruff was visited by the disembodied spirits of a number of American patriots...

"I (Church President Wilford Woodruff) will here say, before closing, that two weeks before I left St. George, the spirits of the dead gathered around me, wanting to know why we did not redeem them... I straightway went into the baptismal font and called upon brother McCallister to baptize me for the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and fifty other eminent men, making one hundred in all, including John Wesley, Columbus, and others; I then baptized him for every President of the United States, except 3, and when their cause is just, somebody will do the work for them." (Journal and Discourses, Vol. 19, p.230, Wilford Woodruff, September 16, 1877)

Pg. 222- The Church of LDS in each nation is run by members of the church from that nation. It is a lay clergy worldwide: Austrians run their congregations in Austria; Colombians in Colombia; Koreans in Korea.

Pg. 224- LDS membership statistics are "extremely reliable. Is there another denomination that actually sends out auditors to check local figures?"

## **Chapter 19- Te Biggest Heaven and the Littlest Hell**

Pg. 226- 1<sup>st</sup> there is the apostle John, he who was translated without tasting death, whose desire (granted) was to remain on the earth and pre each the gospel in many nations. (In a revelation given to Joseph Smith...(Doctrines and Covenants 7:1-3) "And the Lord said to me: John, my beloved what desires thou? For if you shall ask what you will, it shall be granted unto you. And I said unto him: Lord, I've unto me power over death, that I may live and bring souls unto thee. And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desire this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory, and shalt prophesy before nations, kindred's, tongues and people."

Pg. 227- In any case, all we know about the end of the world is what the Savior told the Prophet Joseph Smith: "Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands: and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors." (Doctrines and Covenants 110:16)

Pg. 228- The LDS...agrees with the many other Jewish and Christian groups who affirm that there is a actual Messiah, that he will come at some future time to the earth, and that only through his coming and the events associate therewith will a millennial age of peace, harmony, and joy begin.

Pg. 230- But LDS doctrine expands upon or adds to several components of the common Christian concept of the millennial era.

Like in the Adamic era, the globe will host a single landmass.

Upon that single yet extensive continent, the Savior will establish equal seats of government in earth of the two hemispheres it will reach into: one in Jackson County, Missouri-to which the LDS will have been

called to once again gather just previous to the Millennium-and the other in a rebuilt, restored, and beautified Jerusalem. ("For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"- ISA 2:3)

Although the Savior will reign over the earth, he will likely not occupy it continuously nor personally direct all matters of government, but leave much in the hands of the righteous who remain.

Saints of former days-Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph Smith among them-will visit the earth and instruct, as will the immortal spirits of righteous and inspired men and women of great skill and ingenuity in fields of government, science and the arts.

Pg. 231- Although "all that do wickedly" will have been consumed at or previous to the Lord's Second Coming, millions of decent folks among all sects, parties, and denominations (or allied with none at all) including Catholics, Buddhists, and Hindus-will yet live on the earth.

For a while, an unprecedented missionary effort by the LDS, combined with a very apparent awareness of just whose priesthood has been duly recognized by the Savior, will soon convert most. Those who don't convert will be ushered into the postmortal realm where they can think about it a while longer.

Death will still be the portal between mortality and immortality, but the righteous who die after the beginning of the Millennium "shall not sleep...in the earth, but shall be changed (resurrected) in the twinkling of an eye," and children born in this era "shall grow up until they become old," defined by modern revelation "as the age of a tree" (Doctrines and Covenants 101:30)

...temples will be built in great numbers, and essential ordinance work for all the "dead" since the time of Adam and Eve will move forward rapidly.

Pg. 232- And then shall the angels be crowned with the glory of his (Christ's) might, and the saints shall be filled with his glory, and receive their inheritance and be made equal with him. (Ibid. 88:107)

Hell? Purgatory? Endless suffering amidst hellfire and brimstone? This is the point, theologically, at which I opted out of cultural Christianity at about the age of fourteen.

Pg. 233- What I found out is that the LDS don't despise anyone, short of the patently evil among mankind, nor consign them to hell. Nor does their God. And that was incredibly refreshing. To my teenage ears it sounded...well, so Christian. It sounded like a God I wanted to know.

Whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. (Alma 40:11-14)

Thus a separation, a judgment, the righteous going to one world known as "paradise" and the wicked to another: spirit prison. End of Story? Not at all.

The moment of death, at which the spirit leaves the physical body, initiates a preliminary judgment only...

As previously discussed, this paradise-not heaven, but a proximate place of rest and refuge and beauty-will welcome even those such as the man hung on the cross contiguous to Christ: a convicted thief receiving, in his own words, "the due reward" of his actions. (And possibly his companion as well; the Bible account does not exclude him and neither will we.) As seen in the Vision of Joseph F. Smith this Paradise will give time and opportunity to "a vast multitude," an "innumerable company" to hear the gospel and either accept or reject its principles before a final judgment.

An initial judgment places one in Paradise of the spirit prison. Then, those among the dead who hold valid priesthood authority received while on the earth minister among the others as missionaries, as teachers. Their proselytary ministrations take them throughout the realm of Paradise, but it then extends into the darkened corridors of the spirit prison, where even the wicked are offered the full range of gospel teaching and capability.

...none will be forced to accept his teachings or his actions on their behalf. The immutable law of eternity- free agency- will prevail. For those who accept the teachings and ordinances prescribed by their Savior, essential ordinances of salvation performed for them vicariously in earthly temples will have saving power. For those who do not, they will merely have been paperwork, names on a list: conscientious rejectors.

But our ages-ago acceptance of this sojourn (to live on the earth in a mortal body) had two primary purposes. One was to determine our level of valiance-now being evaluated-and the other was to receive a physical body.

Pg. 235- Those in the spirit world who fully accept the gospel there (the great majority of them in Paradise but, conceivably, a few even from the rolls of the spirit prison will be given some time to "prove it," then be clothed upon once again with their bodies.

Those from the beginning of the earth time who have wasted the days of their probation...

They won't wait in peace...

Having rejected the Atonement of Christ, but not entirely the whisperings of the spirit that make one at least human and not a total monster, they in effect atone for their own sins throughout the long day of the Millennium. And yet they wait some more.

They will suffer, but there they can yet repent. "As rapidly as they can...gain light, believe truth, acquire intelligence, cast off sin, and break the chains of hell," wrote Elder Bruce R. McConkie, "they can leave the hell that imprisons them and dwell with the righteous in the peace of paradise." Hell, for most, will have an end.

Pg. 237- we lived together as spirit brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of God, in a premortal world. We all agreed to come to earth to gain a body and be tested as to our true valiancy of soul when out of our Father's presence. Some of us agreed to be born in nations, or in homes, or in eras where wars would rage and poverty prevail; or to take upon ourselves a body or mind (in mortality only) bereft of full form of capacities.

Pg. 238- Embodied, resurrected being, albeit with bodies having no glory, they will prevail in hell over Lucifer, but that is all. Their eternity will be bitter. "And the end thereof, neither the place thereof, nor their torment, no man knows; neither was it revealed, neither is, neither will be revealed unto man, except to them who are made partakers thereof." (Ibid., 45-46)

Such will likely be few. Hell, in the end, will be a tiny, forgotten corner of the universe. The great God will find no solace in the path these few have chosen. They were his children. Yet all has been offered: light, strength, repentance, help, knowledge, and a grace sufficient to cover all sins should each of them merely have sought forgiveness and a better way. They simply weren't interested. None of them would be happy in heaven, anyway, and perhaps their self-selected misery is their only reward for having tried mortality.

Pg 239- It is considered the darkest hue of lie and blasphemy by many "Christian" faiths to suggest that Muslims will inherit heaven, or Buddhists or Pagans or Hindus or, heaven forbid, Mormons! Having not "confessed Christ" while in mortality, they are doomed to suffer eternal damnation along with a billion little children and babies, and good riddance anyway. I, for one, thank God for a different God.

The LDS teach the most expansive concept of heaven short of a free-for-all, that there is.

Pg. 240- Highest of all glories is the Celestial Kingdom, where the Father and the Son dwell. This is heaven.

Even in the celestial glory, there are three heavens or degrees, however, and in order to obtain the highest degree, a man and woman must have been sealed in the eternal marriage covenant in one of the church's holy temples by someone holding the authority restored to earth by Elijah, either during their mortal probation or through the efforts of those acting on their behalf vicariously. And they must have continued entirely faithful since.

Pg. 241- A sealing is not a marriage. A LDS can be married in a Las Vegas roadhouse..., and the church will recognize any legitimate ceremony as legally binding. For mortality only. Like everyone else, at death do they part. A sealing (whatsoever is bound on earth shall be bound in heaven) is a specific ordinance performed in one of the church's temples...It requires a significant effort in personal faithfulness.

...those who have never married in this life can yet enjoy that eternal relationship, as can those of any other earthly faith (or no faith at all) who accept the plenary gospel in the afterlife. Ordinances will be performed in their name on the earth; they can accept or reject them. Those who accept will continue on their eternal progression, **someday to become as God** their Father, to create worlds, people them with spirit children "innumerable as he sands of the seashore," and enjoy eternal increase of all things.

That is the potential, the full heritage of the children of God: "And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ," (Rom. 8:16-17)

Those who reject the eternal marriage covenant, though perfectly righteous in all other ways, will take up residence in a lesser sphere of the celestial kingdom where they will serve as "ministering

servants...for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory. For these angels did not abide my (complete) law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.” (Ibid., 132:16-17)

However, “all who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the celestial kingdom of God” as will “all children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability...

Those who died as babies and children will be raised to maturity by their exalted parents, in family chains that extend back to Adam and forward forever.

Pg. 242- Babies in heaven. Billions who spent mortality as faithful Buddhists, Baptists, Quakers, and Anglicans, all of whom (minus the babies) came to know the truth through the spirit-world ministrations of authorized servants of the Christ and accepted it there, all of whom (minus the babies) needed the essential ordinances of salvation performed for them on the earth but who benefited instead from work for the dead performed in their behalf by others.

The babies-righteous spirits without flaw-needed none of it; only a body.

And then JS saw the vision of the terrestrial kingdom, a lesser realm in which the analogous light of glory, like the moon, is a reflected light from a higher source. The bodies are different, and so are the potentialities.

Here eternity will be spent by those who heard the gospel on the earth but rejected it, accepting it finally in the spirit world:...

Unlike the celestial kingdom, this realm offers a limit to progress. It is fixed, circumscribed. The beings who inhabit this world will have no capacity for reproduction, and family units will not exist. Although rewarded a kingdom of glory in many ways beyond explication, its inhabitants will suffer from the clear knowledge that much more could have been theirs, if only...

In his Vision, expanded and clarified by subsequent prophets...

By the time of the final Judgment, those children of God who inherit the terrestrial and telestial kingdoms will have been offered a chance to repent and accept the plan of salvation, their Savior, and their Father again and again and again. And they simply won't choose to go along. In their heart of hearts, they just won't have an authentic disposition to do so.

Pg. 243- “And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, “ recorded JS, “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. These are they who reviled not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus. These are they who deny not the Holy Spirit. These are they who are thrust down to hell. 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.” (Ibid., 76:81-85)

...LDS often intimates that this tertiary heaven will thus be the final abode of the greatest portion of our heavenly Father's children.

Pg. 244- In the fullest sense of the word, only the celestial kingdom is considered "heaven" by LDS. But these lesser realms are known because the prophets have seen them...

This is LDS faith. It honors the Bible, uses the Bible, believes the Bible-but does not depend on the Bible. We descend from no Bible church and non-biblical record. We rely, first and exclusively, on few Bible doctrines. We descend from living prophets and rely on continuing revelation, and "any doctrine that does not bear the label 'revelation' is not our doctrine and is unworthy of our faith." We descend from a personal visitation of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ to a 14 year old farm boy in the western woods of New York who didn't intend to start anything. He just wanted to know.