

## Satan's Rebellion Outline – Mike Baird

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See "Satan's Rebellion", March 2015 Ensign

### Tradition vs. Doctrine

- Some ideas about what Satan proposed in pre-existence come from tradition instead of actual revelation
- Important to separate out the two

### God's plan – Satan proposed to change it

- Moses 4:1-4

"And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and *he came before me, saying*—Behold, 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.

But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto me—Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

Wherefore, *because that Satan rebelled against me*, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, *the father of all lies*, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice."

- It was Heavenly father's plan – he did not ask for volunteers to present other "competing" plans
- Plan was presented at Grand Council in Heaven
- Christ was chosen from the beginning to be the Savior
  - "Father, Thy will be done"
- This was setting for Satan's proposal to change the plan

### **"Father of All Lies" & "Liar from the beginning"**

- Moses 4:4
 

" And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, *the father of all lies*, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. "
- D&C 93:25
 

" And whatsoever is more or less than this is the spirit of that wicked one *who was a liar from the beginning*"
- Important to consider the character of Satan when considering his actions and claims
  - He was the same in the beginning as he is now
  - Cannot assume Satan was telling the truth on his claim to save us all

### **He was a liar from the beginning and what he proposed was a lie**

- Trap to ensnare and deceive us into following him
  - Third of the hosts of heaven followed him in the pre-existence
- "Plan of Damnation not Salvation"

### **"Destroy the agency of man" How?**

- Scriptures do not say *HOW* Satan proposed to carry out this lie
  - Only say that he "sought to destroy the agency of man"
- There is no definitive doctrinal statement of the church
- Therefore the "how did he plan to do it" can only be inferred or speculated upon

### ***Possibility #1: Compulsion of man***

- Reuben J Clark

"As I read the scriptures, Satan's plan required one of two things: Either the compulsion of the mind, the spirit, the intelligence of man, or else saving men in sin. I question whether the intelligence of man can be compelled. Certainly

men cannot be saved in sin, because the laws of salvation and exaltation are founded in righteousness, not in sin" (Conference Report Oct 1949, 193)

- It is clear because of our agency that we cannot be compelled

### ***Possibility #2: Saved no matter what we did***

- Bible Dictionary – War in Heaven

" Lucifer and his followers wanted salvation to come automatically to all who passed through mortality, without regard to individual preference, agency, or voluntary dedication"

- Satan's proposal was to save us no matter what we did
- This would destroy the agency of man
  - Without consequences choices become meaningless
- We can see elements of this interpretation in Satan's efforts today

- 2 Nephi 28:7-8

" Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

And there shall also be many which shall say: *Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.*

### **It was a Plan of Rebellion**

- Instead of speculating on what he proposed – look at what he did
- He and his followers openly rebelled
  - A plan of rebellion and disobedience to God
  - Moses 4:3

" Wherefore, *because that Satan rebelled against me*, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down;

"
- D&C 76:26

" And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God, *who rebelled against the*

*Only Begotten Son* whom the Father loved and who was in the bosom of the Father, was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son; "

- D&C 76:26  
" And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil—for, behold, the devil was before Adam, *for he rebelled against me, saying, Give me thine honor, which is my power;* and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency; "
- Plan was not an innocent proposal to amend God's plan
  - Was rebellion, revolt, mutiny
    - Take over Heaven and have the glory
  - Satan and his followers declared war in heaven and became enemies to God