

## Intro

- **Alma 34:32-35**
  - highlights
  - what does it mean “ this life is the day ...”
- **SWK quote**
  - Ran across this in preparation
  - “The more clearly we see eternity ... ”
    - likely to choose the right
    - do the right thing
    - do it
    - Analogy of hotel with glass on three sides.
- Asked myself - Ask yourself
  - **“if I could see eternity clearly - what would I do?”**
  - Anecdote - At times we do - but not very far.
    - \$
    - driving
    - at work
    - Basketball

### **“if I could see eternity clearly - what would I do?”**

- Pull back our focus and try and look at eternity
  - Sacrament meeting
  - this morning - this afternoon
  - yesterday - tomorrow
  - week
  - year
  - birth - death
  - **BREAK BARRIER**
  - pre-mortal - post mortal
- Notice that we can because of the words of the Prophets
  - To me this little experiment and my preparation for this talk shows us how much clearly we see because of prophets and why we **should** listen to them.
- Keep this big picture in your head in this talk - we will zoom in

## FIRST ZOOM -- PRE-EXISTENCE

What important things do we see here?

- We lived in God's presence.
  - We are his spirit children - He is our Father
  - We saw him in his majesty
  - We were spirits - He has a glorified body of flesh and bones
- There was agency and progression
  - Some more faithful than others.
  - We know that all of us were innocent in the beginning
  - We walked by sight.
  - We wanted to have the opportunity to become like our father
- The plan of salvation was presented
  - Jesus was chosen to be the Redeemer of the **World (Abraham 3:24-28)**
  - Lucifer, a son of the morning, rebelled and was cast out
    - Satan would do away with our agency and wanted the glory.
    - Satan & followers denied mortal bodies
  - No neutrals - all took sides.
  - We chose Christ's plan.
- God fore-ordained prophets
  - **JFS** - "The Lord fore-ordained the noble and great ones to be his prophets and rulers here, for he knew them before they were born, and through the action of the spirit on the body, he knows they will likely to serve him here"
  - Abraham was shown the intelligences that were organized before the world was and told him he was one of the great and noble ones. **(Abraham 3:22-23)**
  - You and I may have been fore-ordained to do some matter or good.
- The earth was created
  - A place for us to come live

## SECOND ZOOM -- Mortality

What important things do we see here?

- Two main purposes to life were part of the plan
  - To gain a body
  - To gain experience
    - pleasure, pain, sin, sorrow, suffering,
    - Life is for growth
    - Life is to pass through the experiences that will make us better.
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- We have our AGENCY
  - Free to choose whom we will serve
  - Satan is there to tempt us
  - Mortality is the proving ground for **exaltation** to find out who among the children of God will be worthy to become like him.
  - **WHHunter** - "God's way of acting is by persuasion and patience and long-suffering. He acts by gentle solicitation and by sweet enticement. He always acts with unfailing respect for the freedom and independence that we possess. He wants to help us and pleads for the chance to assist us, but he will not do so in violation of our agency."
  - He does not coerce
- The way is strait and narrow. **(2 Nephi 31:18)**
  - There are covenants to be performed
    - baptism
    - temple
  - Must stay on the path once we are on it. **(2 Nephi 31:19:20)**
  - We all sin so as part of the plan an atonement which allows us to become clean if we repent.
- Some have a focus where we shouldn't. Purpose of wealth etc.
  - **JFS** - "These things are necessary to our existence here, and that is why we should be industrious... these things are but temporary blessings, blessings that are needful while we journey through this life. And that is all the good they are to us. We cannot take any of them with us when we depart."
  - What do we take?? what we learn etc. **(D&C 130:18-19)**
- **JFS** - "This life is the most vital period in our eternal existence"
  - Now is the time to prepare to meet God
    - Now is the time to subjugate the flesh.
    - Now is the time to overcome weakness.
    - Now is the time to subdue self.

- **Alma 34:32**
- **Nancy** has talked about preparing ourselves.
- **SWK** - "procrastination leads to loss of exaltation"

### **THIRD ZOOM -- Post Mortal**

- Redemption of the body - Resurrection
  - **Free gift to all** through Jesus Christ
- Judgment
  - Salvation
    - **to all who do not** sin against the light and becomes sons of perdition and dwell where Satan will be.
    - **Church membership alone** will not Exalt - (Nancy & 10 Virgins) **SWK** - "The terrestrial kingdom will not be enjoyed by the very wicked, for they shall obtain only the telestial. Neither will the terrestrial be given to the valiant, the faithful, the perfected, for they will go into the celestial kingdom. But into the terrestrial will go those who do not measure up to the celestial." **D& C 76:79** - These are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus - "The unvaliant Latter-day Saint will find himself there."
    - Not Exalted by the faith of our fathers
    - It is up to --- ME -- I am responsible.
  - Exaltation
    - To dwell in the presence of God and to be like him
    - Only in the Celestial Kingdom is there progress and have all his blessings.
      - Just think about that as we "**see more clearly**"
- Waiting for the above (judgement etc.)
  - Same spirit posses us that did before
    - **Alma 34:34-35**
    - **SWK** - "Have you ever realized there is no magic in death, that ceasing to breathe does not make angels of careless people, does not make believers of disbelievers, does not bring faith where there was skepticism? You will arise about the way you die. You will not change very much. You cannot repent on the Word of Wisdom violation in the spirit world because you have no body which you must change. This is the time to put your lives in order."
    - **Melvin J Ballard** - "this life is the time in which men are to repent. Do not let any of us imagine that we can go down to the grave not having overcome the corruptions of the flesh and then lose in the grave all our sins and evil tendencies.

They will be with us. They will be with the spirit when separated from the body.”

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- Harder to repent
  - **Melvin J Ballard** - It is my judgment that any man or woman can do more to conform to the laws of God in one year in this life than they could in ten years when they are dead. The spirit only can repent and change, and then the battle has to go forward with the flesh afterwards. It is much easier to overcome and serve the Lord when both the flesh and spirit are combined as one. This is the time when men are more pliable and susceptible.”
- Gospel preached to those who haven't heard
- Dead looking forward to resurrection.
  - “dead looked upon the long absence of their spirits from their bodies as a bondage” **D&C 138:42-45 (Joseph F. Smith)**

## Fourth ZOOM -- Back to Mortality

- We've looked at what we can see - hopefully we have a "clearer picture of eternity"
- Revisit - **Alma 34:32**
  - this life is the day to prepare to meet God
    - This is it. The big time. The big dance.
    - JFS - "This life is the most vital period in our eternal existence"
    - So what are we doing??
  - Tie into Nancy
    - 10 Virgins
- Our Hope
  - Be thankful for a Prophet to guide us and follow him. We wouldn't have the picture we do with-out them.
  - Don't put off the day of our repentance. That same spirit will posses us.
    - No unclean thing can dwell in the presence of the Lord
    - We don't want it to be Satan.
  - Stand back and Look at each day from a little different perspective - an eternal one.
    - We each are children of our heavenly father.
    - Cory this week. Eternal family etc.
    - Heavenly Father wants us to come back.