

Before the Creation! (Pre-Mortal Existence)

Episode 3: Pre-Mortal Existence

We existed before the Creation of the World in what is called a Pre-Mortal Existence. This episode explores what we know scripturally about that critical time period; War in Heaven, how & why Jesus Christ was chosen as the Redeemer, how Lucifer fell and became the Devil, who he targets, how we overcame him once and how we can overcome the Adversary and thrive today.

➤ Quotes & Scriptures Used

Pres. Russell M. Nelson:

“My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation...

Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly....

“In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost...”

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2018/04/revelation-for-the-church-revelation-for-our-lives?lang=eng>

“I renew my plea for you to do whatever it takes to increase your spiritual capacity to receive personal revelation. Doing so will help you know how to move ahead with your life, what to do during times of crisis, and how to discern and avoid the temptations and the deceptions of the adversary...”

“It has never been more imperative to know... how the Spirit speaks to you than right now!”

(President Nelson, *Hear Him*, April 2020)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/video/2020-04-4050-russell-m-nelson?lang=eng>

Julie B. Beck:

“The **single most important skill** that can be acquired in this life is the ability to qualify for, receive, and act on **Personal Revelation!**”

(**Julie B. Beck**, Relief Society General President, *Ensign* (CR) **May 2010**, p.11)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2010/04/and-upon-the-handmaids-in-those-days-will-i-pour-out-my-spirit?lang=eng>

BASICS OF GOD

1. FAITH
2. AGENCY
3. Jesus Christ is the Chosen Redeemer & Messiah in God's Plan of Happiness
4. God speaks through the Holy Ghost

Pre-Mortal Existence...???

What We Know:

1. **We existed before we came to Earth.** (Jeremiah 1:5; Abraham 3:22-28; Moses 4:1-4; Alma 13:1-3)
2. **There was a "War in Heaven"** (Rev 12:7-17; BD War in Heaven)

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations"

BD War in Heaven

"This term arises out of [Rev. 12:7](#) and refers to the conflict that took place in the premortal existence among the spirit children of God. The war was primarily over how and in what manner THE Plan of Salvation would be administered to the forthcoming human family upon the earth..."

"The issues involved such things as agency, how to gain salvation, and who should be the Redeemer..."

The WAR broke out because one-third of the spirits refused to accept the appointment of Jesus Christ as the Savior. Such a refusal was a rebellion against the Father's plan of redemption..."

"It was evident that if given AGENCY, some persons would fall short of complete salvation; Lucifer and his followers wanted salvation to come automatically to all who passed through mortality, without regard to individual preference, agency, or voluntary dedication..."

(see [Isa. 14:12-20](#); [Luke 10:18](#); [Rev. 12:4-13](#); [D&C 29:36-38](#); [Moses 4:1-4](#)).

"The spirits who thus rebelled and persisted were thrust out of heaven and cast down to the earth without mortal bodies, "and thus came the devil and his angels..." ([D&C 29:37](#); see also [Rev. 12:9](#); [Abr. 3:24-28](#)).

"The warfare is continued in mortality in the conflict between right and wrong, between the gospel and false principles, etc. The same contestants and the same issues are doing battle, and the same salvation is at stake..."

“Although one-third of the spirits became devils, the remaining two-thirds were not all equally valiant, there being every degree of devotion to Christ and the Father among them. The most diligent were chosen to be rulers in the kingdom ([Abr. 3:22-23](#)). The nature of the conflict, however, is such that there could be no neutrals, then or now.”

([Matt. 12:30](#); [1 Ne. 14:10](#); [Alma 5:38-40](#))

Why Did WAR break out?

“The issues involved such things as **agency**, how to gain salvation, and **who** should be the Redeemer...

The WAR broke out because one-third of the spirits **refused to accept the appointment of Jesus Christ as the Savior**. Such a refusal was a rebellion against the Father’s plan of redemption...”

Moses 4:1-4

1 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.

2 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.

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**;

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**.

Revelation 12:7-10

7 And there was **War in Heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Who does he TARGET?

Revelation 12:17

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to **make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

D&C 76:25-29

25 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,

26 And was called Perdition, for the heavens wept over him—he was Lucifer, a son of the morning.

27 And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen, even a son of the morning!

28 And while we were yet in the Spirit, the Lord commanded us that we should write the vision; for we beheld Satan, that old serpent, even the devil, who rebelled against God, and sought to take the kingdom of our God and his Christ—

29 Wherefore, **he maketh war with the saints of God, and encompasseth them round about.**”

DEMOGRAPHICS?

How many angels does Satan have on his team?

How many angels does God have on His team?

2 Kings 6:15-17

15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

16 And he answered, **Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.**

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about.

How many angels does God have on His team?

2 Nephi 2:16

“Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself.

Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other.”

How does God hear & answer SO MANY prayers all at once?

2 Nephi 32:3,5

3 Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do...

5 For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:

“May I suggest to you that one of the things we need to teach our students, and one of the things which will become more important in their lives the longer they live, is the **reality of angels**, their work, and their ministry...”

Obviously I speak here not alone of the angel Moroni, but also of those more **personal ministering angels** who are with us and around us, empowered to help us, and who do exactly that...”

“Perhaps more of us, including our students, could literally, or at least figuratively, behold the angels around us if we would but awaken from our stupor and **hear the voice of the Spirit** as those angels try to speak. (**3 Ne. 7:18; Moro. 7:29–32, 37; D&C 107:20**)”

“I believe we need to speak of and believe in and bear testimony to **the ministry of angels** more than we sometimes do. They constitute one of God’s great methods of witnessing through the veil.”

(A Standard unto My People [address to religious educators at a symposium on the Book of Mormon, BYU, Aug. 9, 1994], 11–13) and in [Ensign, Jan 1996]).

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teaching-seminary-preservice-readings-religion-370-471-and-475/a-standard-unto-my-people?lang=eng>

Pres. Russell M. Nelson:

“My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation... Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly....

“I **renew my plea** for you to do whatever it takes to increase your spiritual capacity to receive personal revelation. Doing so will help you know how to move ahead with your life, what to do during times of crisis, and how to discern and avoid the temptations and the deceptions of the adversary...”

“**It has never been more imperative to know... how the Spirit speaks to you than right now!**”

(President Nelson, *Hear Him*, April 2020)

“In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost...”

“With Moroni, I exhort you to “Come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift,” beginning with **the gift of the Holy Ghost, which gift can and will change your life.**”

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

“The **single most important skill** that can be acquired in this life is the ability to qualify for, receive, and act on **Personal Revelation!**”

(**Julie B. Beck**, Relief Society General President, Ensign (CR) **May 2010**, p.11)

What WEAPONS did they use in this WAR?

“The warfare is continued in mortality in the conflict between right and wrong, between the gospel and false principles, etc. The same contestants and the same issues are doing battle, and the same salvation is at stake...” (BD War in Heaven)

Preparing for the 2nd Coming

D&C 45:56-57

56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the **ten virgins**.

57 For they that are **wise** and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

What we receive and do with truth is critical!

How well take the Holy Spirit as our Guide is crucial! (skill)

Not being deceived...with the various philosophies, ideas, doctrines, is SO important!

Most frightening verse of scripture in the Book of Mormon to Dr. Anderson...

2 Nephi 28:14

14 They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men.

When & Where are we taught ‘*the precepts of men?*’

What are some of the main ‘precepts of men’ that are deceiving the Humble Followers of Christ?

President Russell M. Nelson:

“If we are to have any hope of sifting through the myriad of voices and the philosophies of men that attack truth, we must learn to receive revelation. Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again.”

“My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation...

Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly.”

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

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“Write the thoughts that come to your mind. Record your feelings and follow through with actions that you are prompted to take. As you repeat this process day after day, month after month, year after year, you will *“grow into the principle of revelation.”*

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

2 Talks by Elder Richard G. Scott:

“To Acquire Spiritual Guidance”, (Richard G. Scott, Oct 2009 Gen Conf.)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2009/10/to-acquire-spiritual-guidance?lang=eng>

“How to Obtain Revelation and Inspiration for Your Personal Life”, (Richard G. Scott, April 2012 Gen Conf.)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2012/04/how-to-obtain-revelation-and-inspiration-for-your-personal-life?lang=eng>

President Russell M. Nelson:

“Does God really want to speak to you? **Yes! I urge you to stretch beyond your current spiritual ability to receive personal revelation**, for the Lord has promised that “if thou shalt [seek], thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation.” Oh, **there is so much more that your Father in Heaven wants you to know**. As Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught, “*To those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, it is clear that the Father and the Son are giving away the secrets of the universe!*” “*With Moroni, I exhort you to “Come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift, beginning with the gift of the Holy Ghost, which gift can and will change your life.*”
(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

What about the Fence Sitters?

“The spirits who thus rebelled and persisted were thrust out of heaven and cast down to the earth without mortal bodies, “and thus came the devil and his angels...” ([D&C 29:37](#); see also [Rev. 12:9](#); [Abr. 3:24-28](#)). “Although one-third of the spirits became devils, the remaining two-thirds were not all equally valiant, there being every degree of devotion to Christ and the Father among them. The most diligent were chosen to be rulers in the kingdom ([Abr. 3:22-23](#)). The nature of the conflict, however, is such that there could be no neutrals, then or now.” ([Matt. 12:30](#); [1 Ne. 14:10](#); [Alma 5:38-40](#)) (BD War in Heaven)

How do we Overcome & Succeed in this War?

Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Moses 4:1-4

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**;

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Dr. Anderson's Favorite Quote about Pre-Mortal Existence!

Bruce R. McConkie:

"Being subject to law, and having their agency, all the spirits of men, while yet in the Eternal Presence, developed aptitudes, talents, capacities, and abilities of every sort, kind, and degree. During the long expanse of life which then was, an infinite variety of talents and abilities came into being. As the ages rolled, no two spirits remained alike. Mozart became a musician; Einstein centered his interest in mathematics; Michelangelo turned his attention to painting. Cain was a liar, a schemer, a rebel who maintained a close affinity to Lucifer..."

"...And the talent of greatest worth was that of spirituality, for it enables us to hearken to the Holy Spirit and accept that gospel which prepares us for eternal life. The whole house of Israel, known and segregated out from their fellows, was inclined toward spiritual things..."

"Abraham and Moses and all of the prophets sought and obtained the **talent for spirituality**. Mary and Eve were two of the greatest of all the spirit daughters of the Father. And so it went through all the hosts of heaven, each individual developing such talents and abilities **as his soul desired.**"

(Bruce R. McConkie, The Mortal Messiah 1:23, & A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p. 34)

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(Julie B. Beck, Relief Society General President, Ensign (CR) May 2010, p.11)

Picture of Jesus knocking at the door with no doorknob

Power Scriptures on how the Spirit operates:

D&C 8:2-3

"I will tell you in your mind and in your heart by the Holy Ghost...this is the Spirit of Revelation"

Galatians 5:22-23

"The fruits of the Spirit...Love...Peace...Joy

Alma 32:28

Swell...Enlarge my soul...

Enlighten my understanding...

Delicious to me...

D&C 11:12-13

Leadeth to do good...
To do justly...
Enlighten your understanding...
Fill your soul with Joy...

Pre-Mortal Existence Chapters 2-4 (from Gospel Principles Book):

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-2-our-heavenly-family?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-3-jesus-christ-our-chosen-leader-and-savior?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-principles/chapter-4-freedom-to-choose?lang=eng>

Resources on how to feel and recognize the Spirit (How to)

How does the Spirit operate and speak to us?

Scriptures: (John 14:26; Moroni 10:5; 2 Nephi 32:3,5; Moroni 7:13,16-17; D&C 8:2-3; Galatians 5:22; Alma 32:28; D&C 9:7-9; D&C 11:12-13; Mosiah 3:19; D&C 84:33-35; D&C 50:13-25; etc.)

For the Strength of Youth (Look for References to the Spirit and also any insights to the Spirit)

Quote by President Ezra Taft Benson on Missionary Work:

“**The Spirit** is the most important single element in this work! *With the Spirit...*you can do **miracles** for the Lord in the mission field. *Without the Spirit...*you will never succeed *regardless* of your talent and ability Remember... **IN THIS WORK IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT COUNTS!**”

(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: **Ezra Taft Benson**, 1987, Ch. 12)

Joseph Smith appeared to Brigham Young with an important message:

“Joseph stepped toward me, and looking very earnestly, yet pleasantly said, “Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to **keep the Spirit of the Lord** and it will lead them right...Be careful and not turn away **the small voice**; it will teach you what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the **Holy Ghost** comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it. They can tell **the Spirit of the Lord** from all other spirits; it will *whisper peace and joy* to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God... Tell the brethren if they will follow **the Spirit of the Lord** they will go right. Be sure to tell the people to **KEEP the Spirit of the Lord...**”

("Brigham Young's vision of Joseph Smith". Manuscript History of Brigham Young. 1847. 56)

SCRIPTURE LINKS:

Old Testament:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

New Testament:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

Book of Mormon:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

Doctrine & Covenants:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

Pearl of Great Price:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>

Bible Dictionary:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/zion?lang=eng>