

July 7–13

Doctrine and Covenants 76

“Great Shall Be Their Reward and Eternal Shall
be Their Glory”



Historical Background

D&C 76:15-19

John 5:29 KJV

And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

What change was Joseph Smith prompted to make in John 5:29?

What does it mean to be “just”?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Now, to justify is to seal, or to ratify, or to approve; and it is very evident from these revelations that every act that we do, if it is to have binding and sealing virtue in eternity, must be justified by the Spirit. In other words, it must be ratified by the Holy Ghost.” (CR, April 1956)

Joseph Smith

“If God rewarded every one according to the deeds done in the body the term ‘Heaven,’ as intended for the Saints’ eternal home must include more kingdoms than one. Accordingly, on the 16th of February, 1832, while translating St. John’s Gospel, myself and Elder Rigdon saw the following vision: [D&C 76].” (History of the Church, 1:245)

The Vision of Christ

D&C 76:20-24

W

The Celestial Kingdom

D&C 76:50-53

How did those “who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just” live during their mortal life?

D. Todd Christofferson

“The inheritors of the celestial kingdom ‘receive’ the testimony of Jesus in the fullest sense by being baptized, receiving the Holy Ghost, and overcoming by faith. The principles and truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ govern their priorities and choices. The testimony of Jesus is manifest in what they are and what they are becoming. Their motive is charity, ‘the pure love of Christ.’ Their focus is on pursuing ‘the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ’ (Ephesians 4:13).” (CR, April 2024)

Russell M. Nelson

“While salvation is an individual matter, exaltation is a family matter. Only those who are married in the temple and whose marriage is sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise will... receive the highest degree of celestial glory, or exaltation. A temple marriage is also called a celestial marriage. Within the celestial glory are three levels. To obtain the highest, a husband and wife must be sealed for time and all eternity and keep their covenants made in a holy temple.” (CR, Oct. 2008)

The Celestial Kingdom

D&C 76:54-61

What figurative expressions of righteousness do you recognize in these verses?

Milton R. Hunter

“Those who go to the celestial degree of glory... have lived by every word that has come from the mouth of God, being humble, and faithful in all of their activities here in life. We are heirs, therefore, of celestial glory. The gateway into celestial glory is faith, repentance, baptism, and confirmation; and then, of course, as the Saints enter the kingdom of God... by rendering obedience to all the ordinances and doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ from day to day throughout the entire course of this mortal life.” (CR, April 1949)

The Celestial Kingdom

D&C 76:62-70,92

What figurative expressions of a glorious resurrection do you recognize in these verses?

Who will minister to those in the in the celestial kingdom, i.e., who's presence will they be able to abide?

Franklin D. Richards

“The resurrection of the just, when Jesus shall come again in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, when they who sleep in Jesus will come with Him. Then will He bring the City of Enoch that has gone away in Terrestrial glory ever since it went to the heavens. Then will those children who have died in Christ—for they are redeemed in Christ from before the foundation of the world—come forth.” (JD, 25:230)

The Terrestrial Kingdom

D&C 76:71-74

When did those discussed in these verses receive a testimony of Christ?

John Taylor

“He opened their prison doors and preached to them the same Gospel that they had rejected and which the Jews rejected. If these spirits in prison receive the glad tidings of great joy and live accordingly, they will... inherit a terrestrial glory.” (JD, 18:324)

D&C 137:5-9

5) I saw Father Adam and Abraham; and my father and my mother; my brother Alvin, that has long since slept;

6) And marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in that kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins.

7) Thus came the voice of the Lord unto me, saying: 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;

8) Also all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom;

9) For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts.

The Terrestrial Kingdom

D&C 76:75-80

For these heirs of the terrestrial world, what attitude did they have towards Christ while in mortality?

Who will minister to those in the in the terrestrial kingdom, i.e., who's presence will they be able to abide?

Neal A. Maxwell

“A second group of members are ‘honorable’ but not ‘valiant.’ They are not really aware of the gap nor of the importance of closing it. These ‘honorable’ individuals are certainly not miserable nor wicked, nor are they unrighteous and unhappy. It is not what they have done but what they have left undone that is amiss. For example, if valiant, they could touch others deeply instead of merely being remembered pleasantly.” (CR, Oct. 1995)

Dallin H. Oaks

“The terrestrial is the abode of those who were the ‘honorable men of the earth.’ Its most distinguishing feature is that those who qualify for terrestrial glory ‘receive of the presence of the Son.’ Concepts familiar to all Christians might liken this higher kingdom to heaven because it has the presence of the Son.” (CR, April 1995)

The Telestial Kingdom

D&C 76:81-89

For these heirs of the telestial world, what attitude did they have towards Christ while in mortality?

Who will minister to those in the telestial kingdom?

Dallin H. Oaks

“The lowest degree is the telestial domain of those who ‘received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets’ and who have had to suffer for their wickedness. But even this degree has a glory that ‘surpasses all understanding.’ Its occupants receive the Holy Spirit and the administering of angels, for even those who have been wicked will ultimately be ‘heirs of [this degree of] salvation.’” (CR, April, 1995)

The Telestial Kingdom

D&C 76:98-106,109

In what ways are those who inherit the telestial kingdom “like the stars in the firmament”?

What do you think is meant by “these are they who say they are some of one and some of another”?

What kind of life did they live in mortality?

Sons of Perdition

D&C 76:31-35

What do you think it means to “know [the Lord's] power, and have been made partakers thereof”?

What do you think it means that they “suffered themselves through the power of the devil to be overcome”?

Joseph Smith

"What must a man do to commit the unpardonable sin? He must receive the Holy Ghost, have the heavens opened unto him, and know God, and then sin against Him. After a man has sinned against the Holy Ghost, there is no repentance for him. He has got to say that the sun does not shine while he sees it; he has got to deny Jesus Christ when the heavens have been opened unto him, and to deny the plan of salvation with his eyes open to the truth of it; and from that time he begins to be an enemy. This is the case with many apostates of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"... You cannot save such persons; you cannot bring them to repentance; they make open war, like the devil, and awful is the consequence." (HC, 6:314-5)

Lyman E. Johnson

"Brethren--I will call you brethren--I will tell you the truth. If I could believe `Mormonism'... as I did when I traveled with you and preached, if I possessed the world I would give it. I would give anything, I would suffer my right hand to be cut off, if I could believe it again. Then I was full of joy and gladness. My dreams were pleasant. When I awoke in the morning my spirit was cheerful. I was happy by day and by night, full of peace and joy and thanksgiving. But now it is darkness, pain, sorrow, misery in the extreme. I have never since seen a happy moment." (JD, 19:42)

Next Week:

July 14–20

Doctrine and Covenants 77–80

“I Will Lead You Along”

