



18 The Savior Ministered to the
Spirit World

Saturday, October 17, 2020





The background of the slide features three black silhouettes of crosses against a soft, gradient sunset sky transitioning from purple and blue at the top to orange and red at the bottom. The central cross is the largest and most prominent, with two smaller crosses on either side.

Luke 23.39-43

What did the Savior say to the malefactor on the cross?

Joseph Smith taught that a more accurate rendering of the Savior's words is, "This day thou shalt be with me in the world of spirits" [in History of the Church, 5:424–25]. The Savior's words to the malefactor are misunderstood by many Christians to mean that a person can repent of serious sins at the very end of his or her life. However, the scriptures teach that we should not procrastinate our repentance.

I will say something about the spirits in prison. There has been much said by modern divines about the words of Jesus (when on the cross) to the thief, saying, “**This day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**” King James’ translators make it out to say paradise. But what is paradise? It is a modern word: it **does not answer at all to the original word that Jesus made use of.** Find the original of the word paradise. You may as easily find a needle in a haymow. Here is a chance for battle, ye learned men. There is nothing in the original word in Greek from which this was taken that signifies paradise; but it was—**This day thou shalt be with me in the world of spirits: then I will teach you all about it and answer your inquiries.** And Peter says he went and preached to the world of spirits (spirits in prison, 1 Peter, 3rd chap. 19th verse), so that they who would receive it could have it answered by proxy by those who live on the earth. (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, p. 309)

παραδείσω

Among the Persians a grand enclosure or preserve, hunting ground, park, shady and well watered, in which wild animals, were kept for the hunt; it was enclosed by walls and furnished with towers for the hunters.



Paradise - παράδεισος *parádeisos*

Paradise is an Oriental word, first used by the historian Xenophon, denoting "the parks of Persian kings and nobles." It is of Persian origin (Old Pers. *pairidaeza*, akin to Gk. *peri*, "around," and *teichos*, "a wall") whence it passed into Greek. See the Sept., e.g., in Neh 2:8; Ecc 2:5; Sgs 4:13. The Sept. translators used it of the garden of Eden, Gen 2:8, and in other respects, e.g., Num 24:6; Isa 1:30; Jer 29:5; Eze 31:8, 9.

In Luke 23:43, the promise of the Lord to the repentant robber was fulfilled the same day; Christ, at His death, having committed His spirit to the Father, went in spirit immediately into Heaven itself, the dwelling place of God (the Lord's mention of the place as "paradise" must have been a great comfort to the malefactor; to the oriental mind it expressed the sum total of blessedness). Thither the Apostle Paul was caught up, 2Cr 12:4, spoken of as "the third heaven" (ver. 3 does not introduce a different vision), beyond the heavens of the natural creation (see Hbr 4:14, RV, with reference to the Ascension). The same region is mentioned in Rev 2:7, where the "tree of life," the figurative antitype of that in Eden, held out to the overcomer, is spoken of as being in "the Paradise of God" (RV), marg., "garden," as in Gen 2:8. ([*Vines's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*](#))

He also spoke of the buildings he saw there, remarking that the Lord gave Solomon wisdom and poured gold and silver into his hands that he might display his skill and ability, and said that the temple erected by Solomon was much inferior to the most ordinary buildings he saw in the spirit world.

In regard to gardens, says brother Grant, “I have seen good gardens on this earth, but I never saw any to compare with those that were there. I saw flowers of numerous kinds, and some with from fifty to a hundred different colored flowers growing upon one stalk.” We have many kinds of flowers on the earth, and I suppose those very articles came from heaven, or they would not be here.

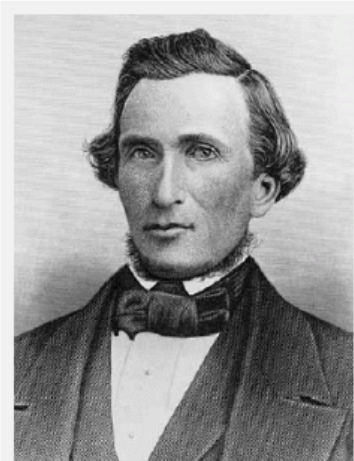
Jedidiah Morgan Grant's Vision

Posted on [2011/05/16](#) by [mikedayherriman](#)

Just before his death in 1856, Jedediah M. Grant received a vision of the spirit world. At his funeral, Heber C. Kimball spoke of President Grant's vision:

I went to see him one day last week, and he reached out his hand and shook hands with me; he could not speak, but he shook hands warmly with me. I felt for him, and wanted to raise him up, and to have him stay and help us whip the devils and bring to pass righteousness. Why? Because he was valiant, and I loved him. He was a great help to us, and you would be, if you were as valiant as he was, which you can be through faithfulness and obedience.

I laid my hands upon him and blessed him, and asked God to strengthen his lungs that he might be easier, and in two or three minutes he raised himself up and talked for about an hour as busily as he could, telling me what he had seen and what he understood, until I was afraid he would weary himself, when I arose and left him.

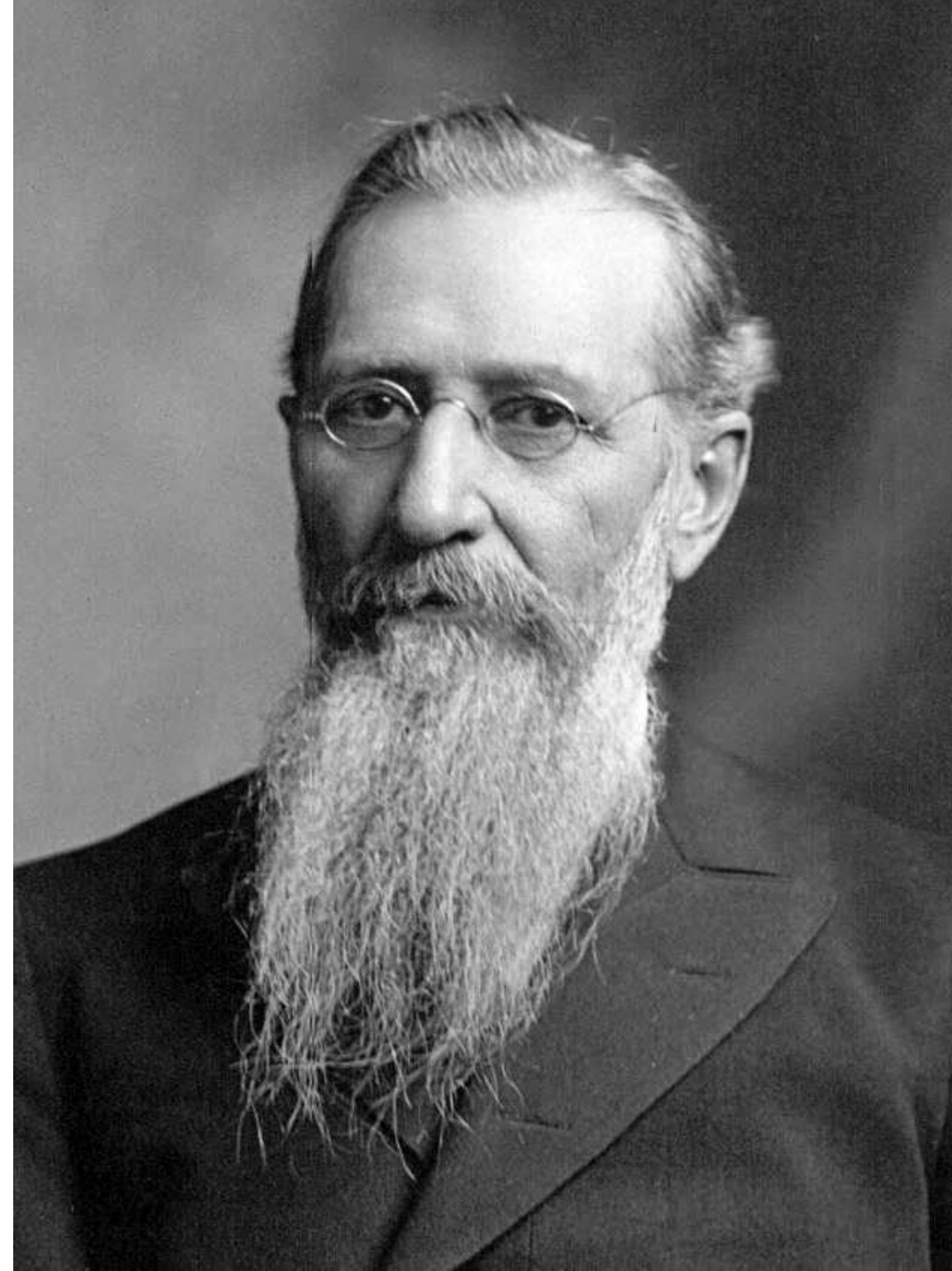


Jedediah Morgan Grant (1816-1856)

Doctrine and Covenants 138:11–12, 15–16, 18–19, 23–24.

According to this vision, what did the Savior do between His burial and Resurrection?

Why were these righteous spirits filled with joy and gladness?



A Great Gulf Fixed

Luke 16.19-31

See v. 26 - χάσμα

Chasma = A gaping Chasm





He organized his forces

And as I wondered, my eyes were opened, and my understanding quickened, and I perceived that the Lord went not in person among the wicked and the disobedient who had rejected the truth, to teach them; But behold, from among the righteous, he 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, even to all the spirits of men; and thus was the gospel preached to the dead.

(D&C 138.29-30)

“[W]hat about the countless thousands who have died and never heard of Christ, never had an opportunity of repentance and remission of their sins, never met an elder of the Church holding the authority? Some of our good Christian neighbors will tell you they are lost forever. ...
“Would that be fair? Would it be just? No! The Lord is going to give to every man the opportunity to hear and to receive eternal life, or a place in his kingdom”

(Doctrines of Salvation, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:132).



← Angels may appear as mortals

Angels serve as guides →

Angels are often nearby

Posted on [2015/11/08](#) by [mikedayherriman](#)

The spirits of the just are exalted to a greater and more glorious work; hence they are blessed in their departure to the world of spirits. Enveloped in flaming fire, they are not far from us, and know and understand our thoughts, feelings, and motions, and are often pained therewith. (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.325)

[Vision given to Joseph Smith in January 1836 part of which is recorded in D&C 137] Also, I saw Elder Brigham Young standing in a strange land, in the far south and west, in a desert place, upon a rock in the midst of about a dozen men of color, who appeared hostile. He was preaching to them in their own tongue, and the angel of God standing above his head, with a drawn Sword in his hand, protecting him, but he did not see it. (*History of the Church*, 2:381)

And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up. (D&C 84:88)



Joseph Smith



Ella Jensen raised from the dead by Lorenzo Snow

Posted on [2016/12/13](#) by [mikedayherriman](#)

Raised from the Dead

This story, true in every particular, shows the fulfillment of a prophecy made upon the head of Lorenzo Snow when he received a patriarchal blessing under the hands of the Prophet's father, Joseph Smith, Senior. It was given in the Kirtland Temple, and among other things were these promises: "Thou shalt become a mighty man. Thy faith shall increase and grow stronger until it shall become like Peter's. Thou shalt restore the sick; the diseased shall send to thee their aprons and handkerchiefs, and by thy touch their owners shall be made whole. The dead shall arise and come forth at thy bidding."

It was March 3, 1891, and for several long weeks Ella Jensen, a young girl of 19 at Brigham City, Utah, had lingered, almost between life and death, with Scarlet Fever. Leah Rees, her girlfriend, was serving her as night nurse, and it was about three or



Lorenzo Snow 1814-1901

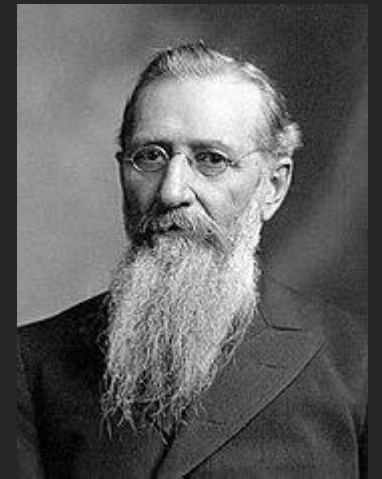
I believe we move and have our being in the presence of heavenly messengers and of heavenly beings. **We are not separate from them.** We begin to realize more and more fully, as we become acquainted with the principles of the Gospel, as they have been revealed anew in this dispensation, that we are closely related to our kindred, to our ancestors, to our friends and associates and co-laborers who have preceded us into the spirit world. We cannot forget them; we do not cease to love them; we always hold them in our hearts, in memory, and thus we are associated and united to them by ties that we cannot break, that we cannot dissolve or free ourselves from. If this is the case with us in our finite condition, surrounded by our mortal weaknesses, shortsightedness, lack of inspiration and wisdom from time to time, how much more certain it is and reasonable and consistent to believe that those who have been faithful, who have gone beyond and are still engaged in the work for the salvation of the souls of men, the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound and proclaiming liberty to the captives who can see us better than we can see them; that they know us better than we know them.

I believe we move and have our being in the presence of heavenly messengers and of heavenly beings. We are not separate from them. We begin to realize more and more fully, as we become acquainted with the principles of the Gospel, as they have been revealed anew in this dispensation, that we are closely related to our kindred, to our ancestors, to our friends and associates and co-laborers who have preceded us into the spirit world. We cannot forget them; we do not cease to love them; we always hold them in our hearts, in memory, and thus we are associated and united to them by ties that we cannot break, that we cannot dissolve or free ourselves from. If this is the case with us in our finite condition ... how much more certain it is and reasonable and consistent to believe that those who have been faithful, who have gone beyond and are still engaged in the work for the salvation of the souls of men, the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound and proclaiming liberty to the captives who **can see us better than we can see them; that they know us better than we know them.**

They have advanced; we are advancing... therefore, I claim that we live in their presence, **they see us, they are solicitous for our welfare, they love us now more than ever.** For now they see the dangers that beset us; they can comprehend better than ever before, the weaknesses that are liable to mislead us into dark and forbidden paths.

They see the temptations and the evils that beset us in life and the proneness of mortal beings to yield to temptation and to wrongdoing; **hence their solicitude for us and their love for us and their desire for our well-being** must be greater than that which we feel for ourselves...

(Joseph F. Smith, *Conference Report*, April 1916, p.3)



I am sure many of you know that the veil can be very thin—that there are people over there who are pulling for us—people who have faith in us and who have great hopes for us, who are hoping and praying that we will measure up—our loved ones (parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and friends) who have passed on. *(Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.31)*

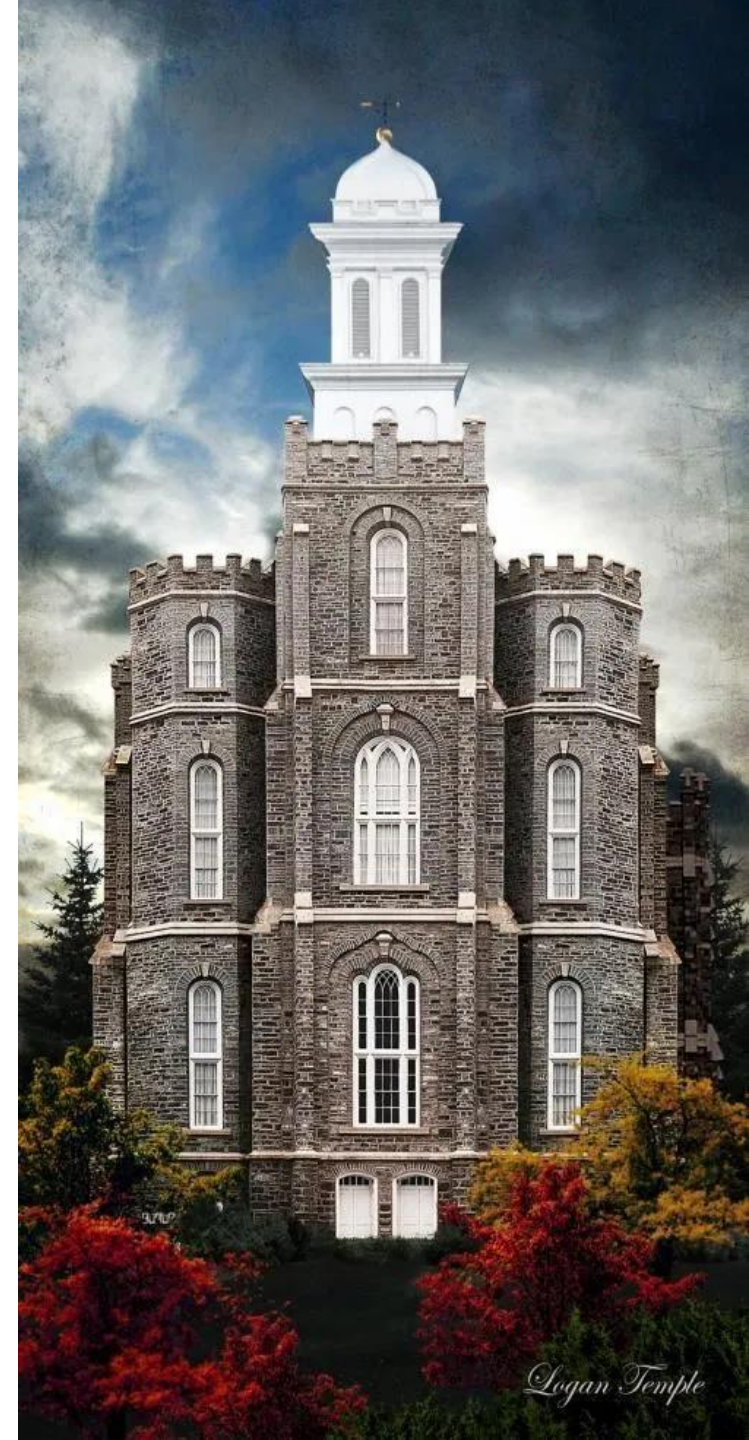


Visitors, seen and unseen, from the world beyond, are often close to us. This is part of eternity which we are living today-part of God's plan. There is no veil to the Lord. Sometimes actions here, by the priesthood of God, the First Presidency and the Twelve, as we meet in the temple, have been planned and influenced by leaders of the priesthood on the other side. I am sure of that. We have evidence of it. On the other side of the veil, the righteous are taught their duties preparatory to the time when they will return with the Son of Man to earth when He comes again, this time to judge every man according to his works. These righteous spirits are close by us. They are organized according to priesthood order in family organizations as we are here; only there they exist in a more perfect order. This was revealed to the Prophet Joseph. (*Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 35-36)

Visitors, seen and unseen, from the world beyond, are often close to us. This is part of eternity which we are living today-part of God's plan. There is no veil to the Lord. Sometimes actions here, by the priesthood of God, the First Presidency and the Twelve, as we meet in the temple, have been planned and influenced by leaders of the priesthood on the other side. I am sure of that. We have evidence of it. On the other side of the veil, the righteous are taught their duties preparatory to the time when they will return with the Son of Man to earth when He comes again, this time to judge every man according to his works. These righteous spirits are close by us. They are organized according to priesthood order in family organizations as we are here; only there they exist in a more perfect order. This was revealed to the Prophet Joseph. (*Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p. 35-36)

For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers—that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect.

(D&C 128.15)



Why do these truths about the spirit world matter? What difference does it make whether a person knows these truths regarding the spirit world?

How can the knowledge of the Savior's ministry in the spirit world be a comfort to you?

The Why

What can we take away from this?

What should we do?

Why?

Application

