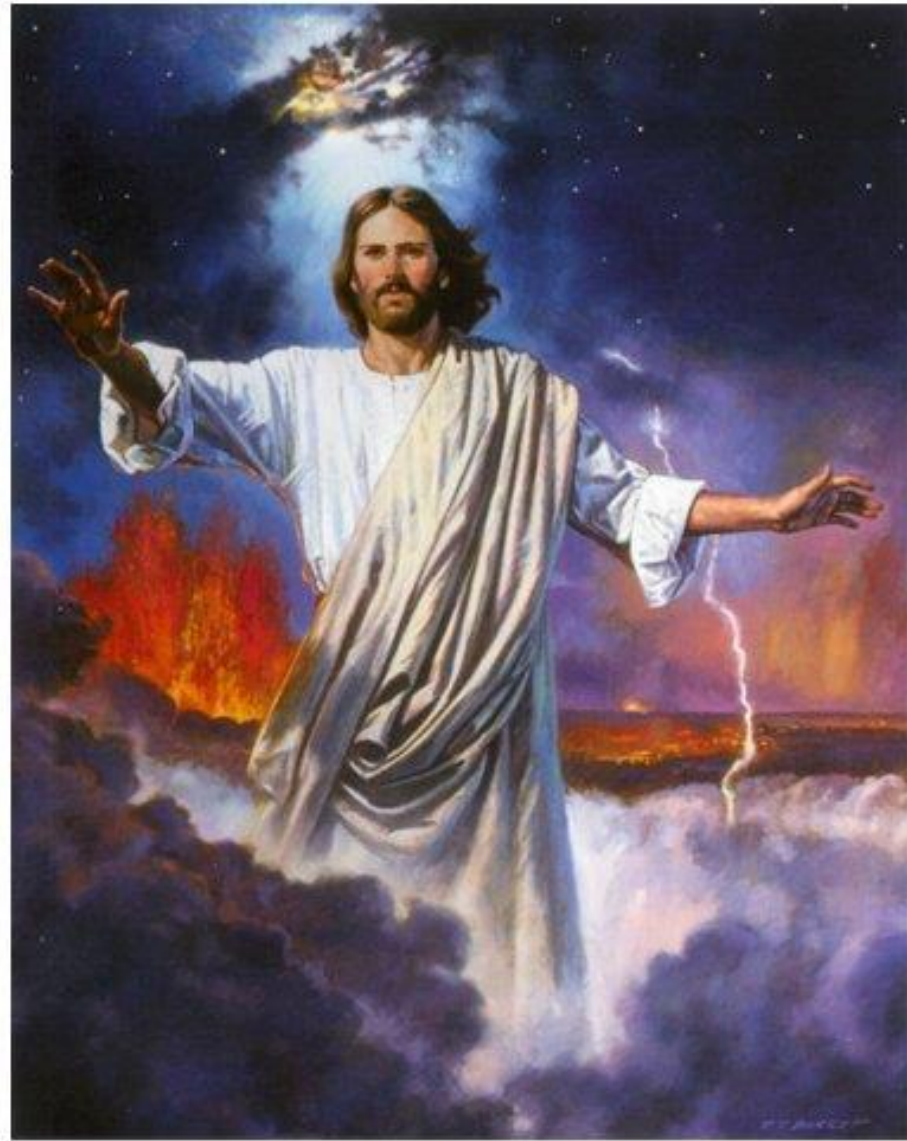


27- Jesus Christ Is the Light, Life, and
Hope of the World

John 1:1–9;
Doctrine and
Covenants
88:6–13



Light

“I have a cherished painting in my office that is titled Entrance to Enlightenment. It was created by a friend of mine, the Danish artist Johan Benthin, who was the first stake president in Copenhagen, Denmark.

“The painting shows a dark room with an open door from which light is shining. It is interesting to me that the light coming through the door does not illuminate the entire room—only the space immediately in front of the door.

Light

“To me, the darkness and light in this painting are a metaphor for life. It is part of our condition as mortal beings to sometimes feel as though we are surrounded by darkness. We might have lost a loved one; a child might have strayed; we might have received a troubling medical diagnosis; we might have employment challenges and be burdened by doubts or fears; or we might feel alone or unloved.

“But even though we may feel lost in the midst of our current circumstances, God promises the hope of His light—He promises to illuminate the way before us and show us the way out of darkness” (“The Hope of God’s Light,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2013, 70).



Questions regarding his light

How does the Light of Christ influence all of Heavenly Father's creations?

What do the truths recorded in these verses suggest the Light of Christ has power to do for an individual?

Why is it helpful to understand that the light that governs the universe is the “same light that quickeneth your understandings”? (D&C 88:11).



Light in the Heavens

At the time of the Savior's death, there were three days of darkness, symbolizing that the Light of the World had left the world (3 Nephi 8:20–23).

On the other hand, the Savior's birth was accompanied by a star and great lights in the heavens and also by three days of light (Helaman 14:3–5; 3 Nephi 1:15, 21).

What is true hope centered in? (Ether 12:4, 32; Moroni 7:3, 40–41)

What will hope do for us in this life? (Psalm 146:5; Romans 5:3–5; 15:13)

Promise of Prosperity – Deuteronomy 28, 30.1-10

“Behold, do ye not remember the words which he spake unto Lehi, saying that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land? And again it is said that: Inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.” - Alma 9:13.

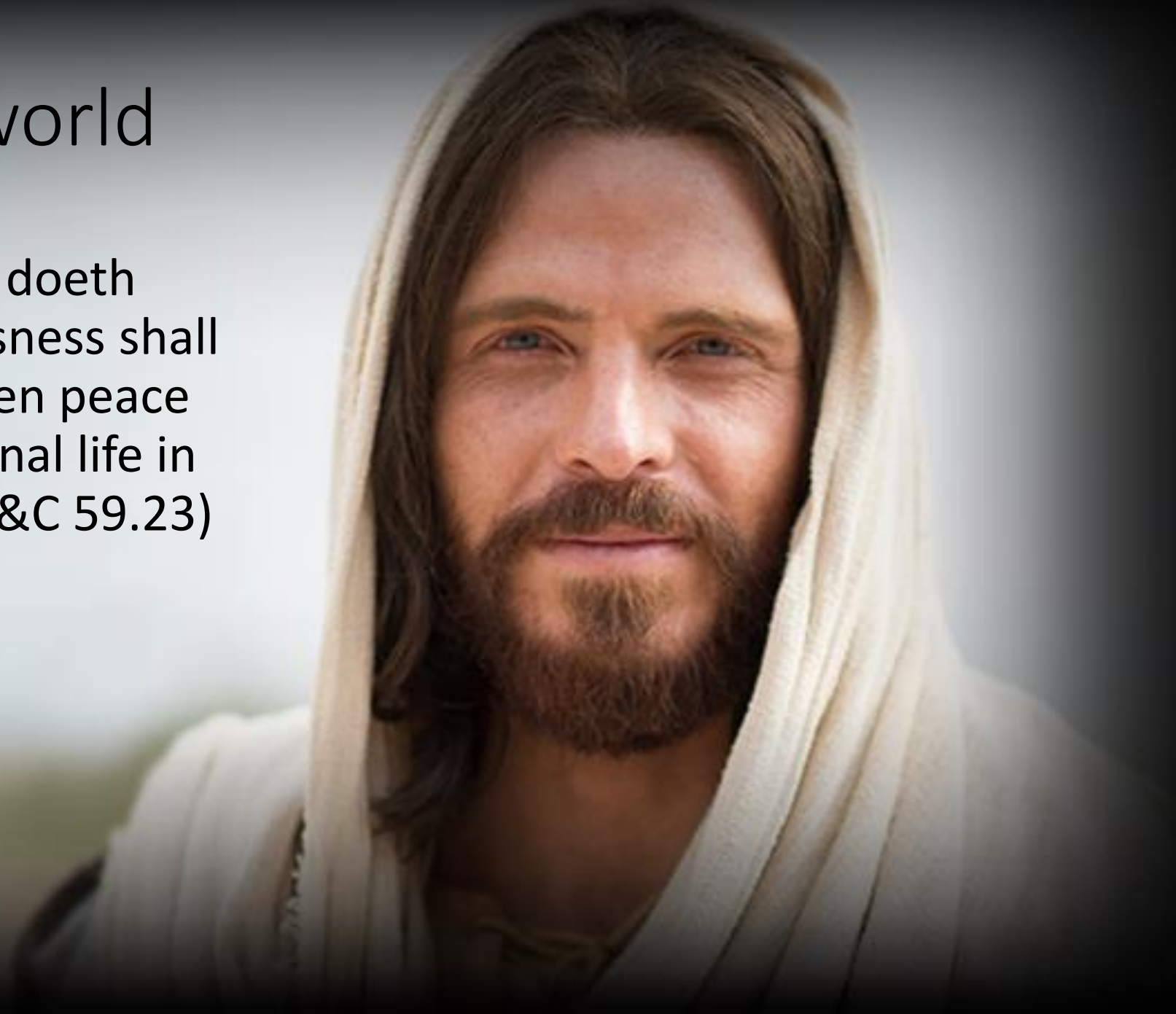
(See also 2 Nephi 1.9,20, 4.4; Jarom 1.9; Omni 1.6; Mosiah 1.7; Alma 36.30, 37.13; 3 Nephi 5.22)

The specific Book of Mormon formulation of this promise clarifies that prospering is being blessed with the Lord's strengthening and supporting presence, not simply in order to get rich or be successful. Though wealth and success can be byproducts of the Lord's prospering presence, they are not meant to be equated with it. At its core, the English word "prosper" comes from the Latin pro sperere, literally meaning "according to one's hope" or "agreeable to one's wishes," meaning "fortunate" more than "wealthy."

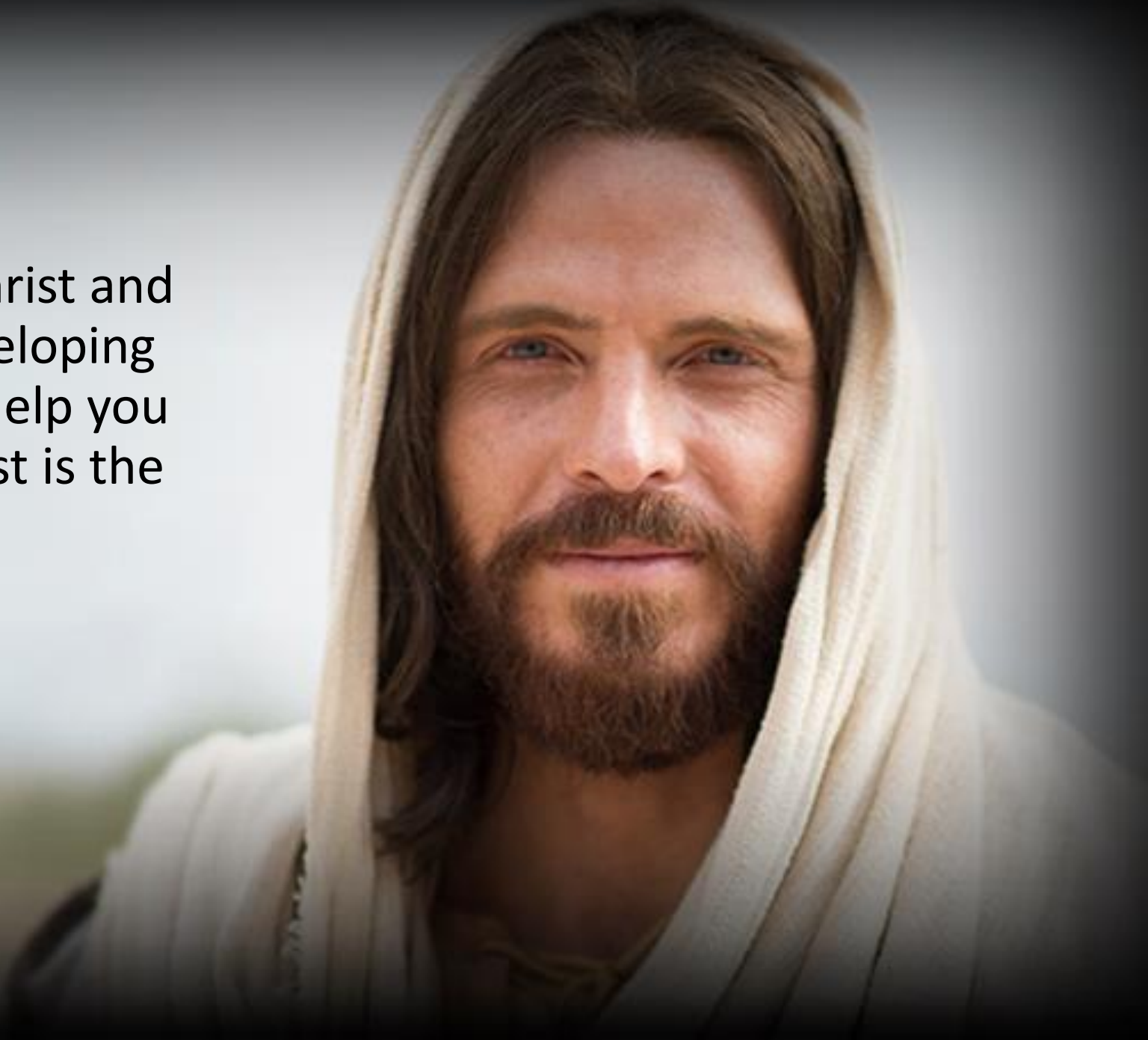
(Online Etymology Dictionary, "prosper," <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=prosper>)

Peace in this world

But learn that he who doeth
the works of righteousness shall
receive his reward, even peace
in this world, and eternal life in
the world to come. (D&C 59.23)



How is our faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement vital to developing real hope? How does this help you understand why Jesus Christ is the hope of the world?



Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14.27)

Hope, Peace, Light