Telestial Salvation

(Italics in original.)


**Telestial Salvation.** Those who enter into the telestial kingdom, where their glories differ as do the stars of heaven in their magnitude, and who are innumerable as the sands of the seashore, are the ungodly, the filthy who suffer the wrath of God on the earth, who are thrust down to hell where they will be required to pay the uttermost farthing before their redemption comes. These are they who receive not the gospel of Christ and consequently could not deny the Holy Spirit while living on the earth.

They have no part in the first resurrection and are not redeemed from the devil and his angels until the last resurrection, because of their wicked lives and their evil deeds. Nevertheless, even these are heirs of salvation, but before they are redeemed and enter into their kingdom, they must repent of their sins, and receive the gospel, and bow the knee, and acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

In both the terrestrial and the telestial glories the inhabitants thereof will be limited in their powers, opportunities, and progression, because, like the sons of perdition, “they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received.” [D&C 88:32.]

**Telestial Damnation.** All who have been filthy and who would not receive the truth and have not had the testimony of Jesus Christ, must suffer the torments of the damned until they are purged from their iniquity, for the blood of Jesus Christ will not cleanse them from their sins without their own individual suffering.

Nevertheless they shall come out of the prison eventually. There are the rest of the dead, spoken of by John who do not live during the millennial reign, but afterwards; and these are assigned to a kingdom known as the telestial kingdom, and they are denied the privilege of dwelling with the Father and the Son, “worlds without end.” The Lord will do for them the best he can under the circumstances, but since they have denied his power and have dwelt in iniquity, they cannot receive the blessings of the kingdom of God.

**Gospel Truths Taught in All Kingdoms.** Will those in the other kingdoms besides the celestial, have the gospel taught to them?

Yes, all truth is gospel truth; and every soul eventually must become acquainted with the plan of salvation, at least as far as it is possible for him to do. We read that every knee must bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This being true, then every soul must know something about him.

But matters which have been held in reserve for the faithful and which have been kept hid from the world by divine decree since before the foundation of the earth, need not be known after the resurrection any more than before, to those who are not entitled to receive them. For instance, there will be covenants and obligations required of those who enter into the exaltation which in no way will apply to those who do not enter into the exaltation, for they do not receive the fulness. In every kingdom the inhabitants must know that they have been redeemed from death, and have received such blessings as are granted them, through the mercy of Jesus Christ.

**Church Members May Go To Any Kingdom.** We have our agency and many, very, very many members of this Church, when they come to the judgment and are judged according to their works, are going to be consigned to the telestial kingdom; others to the terrestrial kingdom; because that is the law that they have willed to obey; and we are going to get our reward according to the law that we obey. [D&C 88:21–33.]

A man who has accepted the testimony of Jesus in the flesh may inherit any of the three kingdoms, according to the degree of faithfulness he has shown in keeping the commandments of the Lord. If he keeps the full law, he shall be entitled to enter the celestial kingdom.

If he is willing to abide only a portion of the law, and rejects the covenants which govern in the celestial kingdom, notwithstanding he is honest, virtuous, and truthful, he shall be assigned to the terrestrial kingdom where other honorable men shall be found.

If he enters into the Church, but rejects the light, and lives a life of disobedience and corruption, he may be assigned to the telestial kingdom and obtain such blessings as he is willing to receive, because he was not willing to enjoy that which he might have received. [D&C 88:32.]


**Every Knee Shall Bow; Every Tongue Confess.** I want to call attention to something that is stated frequently in the scriptures, and I think very often misunderstood, and that is the statement that, “every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess.” [Isa 45:23; Rom 14:10–11; Philipp 2:9–11; D&C 76:110; 88:104.] I wonder how many of us have an idea that if a knee bows and a tongue confesses, that is a sign of forgiveness of sin and freedom from sin, and that the candidate is prepared for exaltation? If you do, you make a mistake. It does not mean that at all.

The time will come when “every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess,” and yet the vast majority of mankind will go into the telestial kingdom eternally. Let me read these verses: “The time shall come when all shall see the salvation of the Lord; when every nation, kindred, tongue, and people shall see eye to eye and shall confess before God that his judgments are just.”

It is a wonderful thing when men reach the stage when they will be willing to confess that the judgments against them are just, and they will bow the knee and will understand “eye to eye.” But see what this prophet says further: “And then shall the wicked be cast out, and they shall have cause to howl, and weep, and wail, and gnash their teeth; and this because they would not hearken unto the voice of the Lord; therefore the Lord redeemeth them not.” And yet they confess.

“For they are carnal and devilish, and the devil has power over them; yea, even that old serpent that did beguile our first parents, which was the cause of their fall; which was the cause of all mankind becoming carnal, sensual, devilish, knowing evil from good, subjecting themselves to the devil.

“Thus all mankind were lost; and behold, they would have been endlessly lost were it not that God redeemed his people from their lost and fallen state.” [Mosi 16:1–4.]

So do not get an idea that because they bow the knee and confess with the tongue, or as it reads in the other scriptures, see eye to eye, that this is going to exalt them in the celestial kingdom of God, because they are going to be judged according to their works and receive their dominion according to the plan that has been appointed and prepared according to the justice,
and tempered by the mercy, of the Lord. [D&C 76:108–112.]


**NO PROGRESSION FROM KINGDOM TO KINGDOM**

No Advancement from Lower to Higher. It has been asked if it is possible for one who inhabits the telestial glory to advance in time to the celestial glory?

The answer to this question is, No!


**Procreation Limited to Celestial Bodies.** Some will gain celestial bodies with all the powers of exaltation and eternal increase. These bodies will shine like the sun as our Savior’s does, as described by John. [Rev 1:12–18; D&C 110:1–4; Ex 24:9–10.] Those who enter the terrestrial kingdom will have terrestrial bodies, and they will not shine like the sun, but they will be more glorious than the bodies of those who receive the telestial glory.

In both of these kingdoms there will be changes in the bodies and limitations. They will not have the power of increase, neither the power or nature to live as husbands and wives, for this will be denied them and they cannot increase.

Those who receive the exaltation in the celestial kingdom will have the “continuation of the seeds forever.” [D&C 132:19.] They will live in the family relationship. In the terrestrial and in the telestial kingdoms there will be no marriage. Those who enter there will remain “separately and singly” forever. [D&C 132:15–32.]

Some of the functions in the celestial body will not appear in the terrestrial body, neither in the telestial body, and the power of procreation [sex] will be removed. I take it that men and women will, in these kingdoms, be just what the so-called Christian world expects us all to be — neither man nor woman, merely immortal beings having received the resurrection.


There are degrees of belief in Christ and his gospel, and it is for this very reason that there are degrees of salvation. Those who believe in him, as Paul did, and who as a consequence keep the commandments and are valiant in the testimony of Jesus, shall gain eternal life. They shall dwell forever in celestial glory. Those who know he is the Son of God but who do not put first in their lives the things of his kingdom, and “who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus” (D&C 76:79), shall go to the terrestrial kingdom. And those who believe in Christ and in such of his gospel as is taught in the churches of the world, and who themselves continue as a consequence to live after the manner of the world, shall go to a telestial kingdom…. (D&C 76:98–101.)