Pre-Mortal Endowment and Election

To carry forward the purpose of God among men and nations, God foreordained chosen spirit children in the pre-existence and assigned them to come to earth at particular times and places so that they might aid in furthering the divine will. (Smith, 1981, p. 36; McConkie, 1966, p. 214; Smith, 1965, p.68). The Book of Mormon declares:

“And this is the manner after which they were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; (Alma 13:3)

Additional prophets have stated: “...no one is born into this world whose work is not born with him or her. We bring from our pre-mortal state various talents and abilities” (Benson, 1988, p. 47). President Joseph Fielding Smith (1981) wrote, “The spirits of men had their free agency, some were greater than others, and from among them the Father called and foreordained his prophets and rulers” ( p.46). Additionally President Harold B. Lee (1974) stated:

All these rewards were seemingly promised, or foreordained, before the world was. Surely these matters must have been determined by the kind of lives we had lived in that pre-mortal spirit world. Some may question these assumptions, but at the same time they will accept without any question the belief that each one of us will be judged when we leave this earth according to his or her deeds during our lives here in mortality. Isn't it just as reasonable to believe that what we have received here in this earth life was given to each of us according to the merits of our conduct before we came here? ( p. 21)

An understanding of the teachings of ancient and modern prophets relating to the doctrine of pre-mortal endowment and election, if understood, should greatly increase our determination to obedience and faithfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.