

# OLD TESTAMENT GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

Green Mountain 1st Ward, Lakewood, Colorado

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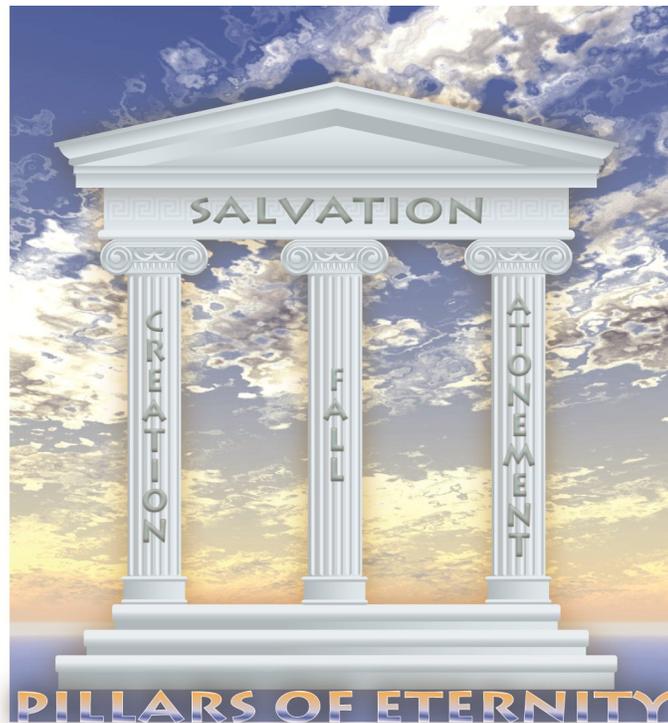
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## Lesson 4: "Because of My Transgression My Eyes Are Opened" (Moses 4; 5:1-15; 6:48-62)

### Introduction

Elder Bruce R. McConkie said that our salvation is made possible because of "three divine events—the three pillars of eternity" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith [1985], 81). He said that these pillars are the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement, which are all part of God's plan for our salvation.

This lesson helps us understand how the Fall was a necessary part of Heavenly Father's plan to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life (Moses 1:39).



### The Fall of Adam and Eve and its effects on them and us.

- **Moses 4; 5:10-11; 6:48-49, 55-56.**

**Moses 2:28.** In the Garden of Eden, God commanded Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

**Moses 3:17.** He also commanded them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

**Moses 5:11; 2 Nephi 2:23.** As long as they did not partake of the forbidden fruit, they would remain in the garden and would not die. But they also would not be able to obey the command to multiply Heavenly Father gave them agency

to choose between the two commands.

**Moses 4:6-31** provides us with an account of how the Fall was brought about.

- Satan did not know the mind of God and sought to beguile Eve
- Eve told the serpent that God had commanded them not to partake of the tree in the midst of the Garden—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they partook, they would die.
- The serpent lied to Eve, telling her that she would not die, but would gain knowledge of good and evil and become as gods
- Eve partook, desiring to be wise, and persuaded Adam to partake, so their eyes were opened
- When they heard the voice of God, they hid because they were naked
- They explained the events of their transgression to Heavenly Father

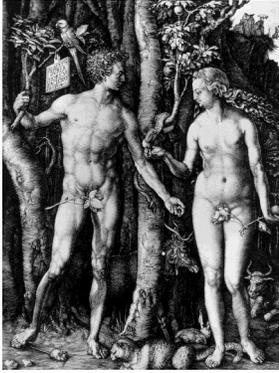
### Lesson Highlights

- The Fall of Adam and Eve and its effects on them and us.
- The Atonement of Jesus Christ saves us from physical and spiritual death.
- Adam and Eve begin life as mortals, bear children, teach them the gospel, and worship and obey God.

A study of this lesson will help us understand that the Fall was a necessary part of Heavenly Father's plan for us.

### Next Week

#5 "If Thou Doest Well, Thou Shalt Be Accepted" (Moses 5-7)



Adam and Eve  
Albrecht Dürer  
1504

## 2nd Article of Faith

**We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, not for Adam’s transgression**



- Heavenly Father cursed Satan for beguiling Eve and put enmity between Satan and mankind
- Adam and Eve were told that the ground would be cursed for their sake and that Eve’s conception and sorrow would be multiplied. They were told that they would eat their bread by “the sweat of thy face”.

Many of these truths about the Fall have been restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith and are not generally known in the world.

Results of the Fall for Adam and Eve:

- Adam and Eve were able to have children, which allowed us to come to earth and receive mortal bodies (Moses 5:11; 6:48; 2 Nephi 2:23, 25).

- We experience physical death, or separation of the physical body from the spirit (Moses 4:25; 6:48; 2 Nephi 9:6).
- We experience spiritual death, or separation from God’s presence (Moses 4:29; 6:49; 2 Nephi 9:6).
- We are partakers of misery and woe (Moses 6:48; Genesis 3:16–17).
- We are capable of sinning (Moses 6:49, 55; 2 Nephi 2:22–23).
- The ground is cursed, causing us to need to work (Moses 4:23–25; Genesis 3:17–19).
- We can learn to recognize good and evil (Moses 4:28; 6:55–56; 2 Nephi 2:23; Genesis 3:22).

- We can have joy in mortality (Moses 5:10; 2 Nephi 2:23, 25).
- We can know the joy of our redemption (Moses 5:11).
- We can obtain eternal life (Moses 5:11).

The Fall is beneficial to us. Latter-day revelation clarifies that even before the Creation, Heavenly Father intended our earth life to be a time of testing and proving so we could become more like him (Abraham 3:24–26). This required that we be mortals, able to learn to choose between good and evil, which was made possible through the Fall.

## **The Atonement of Jesus Christ saves us from physical and spiritual death.**

- **Moses 5:14–15; 6:50–54, 57–62.**

The Fall of Adam and Eve brought physical and spiritual death into the world. Physical death is the separation of the body and the spirit that occurs at the end of our mortal lives. Spiritual death is the separation from the presence of God, which occurred when Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden. We cannot overcome death by ourselves. For that reason, Heavenly Father sent his Only Begotten Son to redeem us from death through his atoning sacrifice (Alma 22:14).

When prophets teach about the Fall of Adam and Eve, they often also teach about the Atonement of Jesus Christ (Moses 5:10–15; 6:48–62; 2 Nephi 9:6–10). It is important to teach the Atonement along with the Fall. The Fall made the Atonement necessary in God’s plan for our

salvation. Teaching the Atonement along with the Fall helps us understand how we are redeemed from physical and spiritual death.

**President Ezra Taft Benson** said: *“The plan of redemption must start with the account of the fall of Adam. In the words of Moroni, ‘By Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man came Jesus Christ, ... and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man’ (Mormon 9:12). Just as a man does not really desire food until he is hungry, so he does not desire the salvation of Christ until he knows why he needs Christ. No one adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ until he understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind”* (in Conference Report, Apr. 1987, 106; or *Ensign*, May 1987, 85).

We are saved from physical death through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. (See 1 Corinthians 15:20–22; 2 Nephi 2:8; 9:6.)

We can be saved from spiritual death because of the Atonement. We can be made clean and worthy to dwell with God through faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and obedience to the commandments. (See Moses 5:14–15; 6:50–52, 59; Helaman 14:15–18; D&C 19:15–19.)

The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob rejoiced in the redemption from death that comes through the Savior’s atoning sacrifice (2 Nephi 9:10).

## Adam and Eve begin life as mortals, bear children, teach them the gospel, and worship and obey God.

### • Moses 5:1–9, 12.

**Moses 5:1-5, 12** record what Adam and Eve did after being cast out of the garden. They began to labor, tilling the land and working hard to make a living (farming and tending flocks). Even though they prayed and heard the voice of the Lord, they were shut out from his presence. Adam and Eve received commandments requiring worship and offerings. They blessed the name of the Lord and taught their sons and daughters. Consider the ways the lives of Adam and Eve were like our lives today.

**Moses 5:1-9, 12** instruct us about the purposes of our lives. We are to work, multiply and replenish the earth,

pray, obey the commandments, do that which we do in the name of the Savior, repent, be willing to be redeemed, and teach our families correctly.

**Moses 5:5-9** record an important commandment to Adam and Eve. Note that even though Adam did not understand the purpose of what he was required to do, he did it faithfully because the Lord commanded it. The **Prophet Joseph Smith** said, *“Whatever God requires is right, ...although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire”* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 256).

**Moses 5:7-9** reminds us of the purpose of the sacrifices that Adam offered. They were a similitude, or likeness, of the sacrifice that Heavenly Father would make of his Only Begotten Son. Offering such sacrifices was a reminder to Adam and his posterity that all mortals can be redeemed from the Fall through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. In this dispensation, we remember the sacrifice of the Savior through the sacrament rather than animal sacrifice.

### Conclusion

**Elder Dallin H. Oaks:** *“It was Eve who first transgressed the limits of Eden in order to initiate the conditions of mortality. Her act, whatever its nature, was formally a transgression but eternally a glorious necessity to open the doorway toward eternal life. Adam showed his wisdom by doing the same...”*

*“We celebrate Eve’s act and honor her wisdom and courage in the great episode called the Fall... Elder Joseph Fielding Smith said: ‘I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin...This was a transgression of the law, but not a sin.’...”*

*“This suggested contrast between a sin and a transgression reminds us of the careful wording in the second Article of Faith: “We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression”. It also echoes a familiar distinction in the law. Some acts, like murder, are crimes because they are inherently wrong. Other acts, like operating without a license, are crimes only because they are legally prohibited. Under these distinctions, the act that produced the Fall was not a sin—inherently wrong—but a transgression—wrong because it was formally prohibited. These words are not always used to denote something different, but this distinction seems meaningful in the circumstances of the Fall”* (Ensign, Nov. 1993, 73).

The Savior makes it possible for us to return to the presence of God, but Adam and Eve made it possible for us to come here to partake of mortality and to be tested and prepared for that return. Let us join with Elder Oaks in *“celebrat[ing] Eve’s act and honor[ing] her wisdom and courage in the great episode called the Fall.”*



Driven out of Eden  
Gustave Doré  
1865

**“And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.”**  
**Moses 5:11**

### Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- How has a correct understanding of the Fall helped you?
- Why are you grateful for the actions of Adam and Eve, for the Fall, for the Atonement of Jesus Christ?