

A study of the creation reminds us that the great plan of eternal salvation has been laid out for us from the beginning. As Elder McConkie stated, an understanding of the creation helps us "understand the nature of our mortal probation" and enables "us to understand the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"And worlds without number have I created; and I also created them for mine own purpose" (Moses 1:33)

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

How does the account of the Creation affect your feelings toward Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?

How has knowledge that we are created in the image of God blessed your life? How has it affected your relationships with other people?

"passed away" and some that "now stand". But while more worlds have been created than we can comprehend, God assured Moses that He knows them all. He impressed upon Moses that there was no end to his works and then gave us scriptural assurance that man is important to our Creator. He sums up His purpose for being in simply saying that, "...this is work and my glory—to bring to pass the

immortality and eternal life of man." The fact that we are the central focus of his life and that our progression is his work, when coupled with the knowledge that He knows each of us individually, should assure us that God loves us as our Father. In spite of the vast numbers of his creations, Father does know us individually.

When comparing the Creation accounts found in Gene-

sis, the Book of Moses, and the Book of Abraham, it is obvious that each differs from the others in certain respects. Abraham and Moses saw in vision the organizing of this earth and then recorded their visions. Each included slightly different details. The account in Genesis was originally written by Moses, but some of the fullness of his account was lost. This fullness is restored in the book of Moses.

Moses learns that God created all things. Moses 2:1-25; 3:1-14

Moses 1:40; 2:1. The Lord created the earth. (See also John 1:1–3, :14; Hebrews 1:1–2; Mosiah 3:8; D&C 14:9.) It is important that we know that acknowledge His hand in the Creation.

Moses 1:39; Abraham 3:24–25. (See also 1 Nephi 17:36; 2 Nephi 2:11–15.) The purpose of the Creation is to provide a place where Heavenly Father's spirit children can come to obtain a physical body and be tested or proven to see if they will obey him when they are away from his presence. Those who are faithful will receive eternal life.

Although an account of the Creation is included in the book of Genesis, the purposes and importance of the

Creation are explained only in latter-day revelation.

Earth life prepares us for eternal life: we receive physical bodies, learn to use our agency, gain knowledge, have families, receive ordinances, and make covenants.

Moses 2:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; 3:2. Eight times in the brief account of the Creation, God declared that his work was good.

We may profit by reviewing this creation around us and noting those elements that we individually consider good. Some items in our environment are beautiful, some functional, some impressive, and some are such that we regularly ignore them. Our appreciation for this marvelous earth, its

beauty, features, and benefits, is a reflection of our own attitudes and values.

Abraham 3:24; 4:1. Here the scriptures teach that the earth was not created from nothing, but rather was organized from existing matter.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "*The word create came from the [Hebrew] word bau-rau which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as man would organize materials and build a ship. Hence, we infer that God had materials to organize the world out of chaos—chaotic matter*" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 350-51).

Moses learns that men and women are created in God's image. Moses 2:26–31; 3:7, 15–25.

Moses 2:26–27. Both male and female were created in God's image.

The First Presidency said: "*All men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity*" (*Improvement Era*, Nov. 1909, 78).

The knowledge that we are indeed created in the image

of God should affect the way we live our lives and the relationships we create with others.

Moses 7:30 teaches us something about God's individual care for each of us—that He is just, merciful, and kind in his dealings with us while we endure testing here on this earth.

Moses 2:26. Man is given dominion over the creations on this earth. As responsible stewards, we show respect for the earth and care for His creations as if He were here watching how we care for the earth, the fowls, the fishes, and every living creature found on the earth, in the air, or in the seas.