

## 243.2: Heaven on Earth (D&C Gospel Doctrine Lesson 20)

### The Kingdoms of Glory

Hook	The tagline for this episode could be: The degrees of glory: You've made it.
Goal	Class members should appreciate the significance of the fact that this life is part of eternity, and internalize the powerful message of hope present in the scriptural description of the kingdoms of glory.
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Go over the assigned reading</li><li>● Briefly touch on the history of the idea of salvation in early Mormon teachings</li><li>● We will then discuss each step of the plan of salvation and explore what we can know (as well as engaging in a bit of fun speculation)</li><li>● Pre-existence</li><li>● Earth life in the context of eternity</li><li>● Spirit World</li><li>● Celestial Kingdom</li><li>● Terrestrial Kingdom</li><li>● Celestial Kingdom</li><li>● We will tackle the question of who will be saved and touch on the idea of progression between kingdoms</li><li>○</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●</li></ul>

"When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the Gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation. But it will be a great while after you have passed through the veil [died] before you will have learned them. It is not all to be comprehended in this world; it will be a great work to learn our salvation and exaltation even beyond the grave" (Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 348).

#### Resources

- [Eugene England's essay on Eternal Progression](#)
- [God Who Weeps](#) (chapter 4 covers salvation)
- [Historical context of D&C 76](#)
- [Development of the idea of God and Eternal Progression in Joseph Smith and Brigham Young](#)

## Eugene England on eternal progression

Summary: God is perfect and all knowing in some spheres (the ones having to do with us for example) but progressing and advancing in greater spheres. I like the idea that God is progressing through us. What does God's Heavenly Parents do? ☺

### God who weeps, chapter 4.

The Givens clarify the essence of salvation, of sin and perfection, of justice and mercy: "Heaven is not a club we enter. Heaven is a state we attain, in accordance with our 'capacity to receive' a blessed and sanctified nature...God cannot arbitrarily dispense a blanket 'salvation' on the human race for two reasons. First, because heaven depends on our attaining a particular mode of being, a character and mind and will that are the product of life long choosing. Conforming to celestial laws, we become celestial persons...Heaven is a *condition* and a sanctified *nature* toward which all godly striving tends; it is not a place to be found by walking through the right door with a heavenly hall pass" (pp. 88-89) God can't assign us undeserved salvation any more than we can borrow the results of years of healthy eating or exercise.

They also wisely remind us that virtually never do we act with full freedom, choice, and knowledge, and therefore remain less than fully accountable.

### Historical context of D&C 76

So profound "The Vision," as it became known, contained a sweeping description of what awaited humankind after death. It outlined varying degrees of glory divided into three kingdoms as the inheritances for the vast majority of God's children; revealed that consignment to eternal punishment would be the fate of only a small few; and explained that the righteous would receive the Father's fullness:"

### Development of Eternal Progression in Joseph Smith and Brigham Young

Regrets of the dying (referenced by President Uchtdorf in Oct 2012 Conference)

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.
3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.