

Podcast 002 The Telestial World  
Mike Stroud

**Mike:** Let's start out by just looking. In the universe there are millions of galaxies and worlds like this one.

An innumerable number of Telestial worlds, millions of them, planets like this, where there are people on them.

And the people that are on these planets are the children of the gods in the universe. Every one of these planets, just like this one, has people on them who are the children of mothers and fathers in heaven. And these mothers and fathers have sent their children onto these planets, Telestial worlds, to go to school. It's just like when we send our children out to go to school. We prepare them at home. They learn all the lessons they can at home. And when it comes time for them to leave home and go to school, so they can further their education. It's Just like it is an eternity.

These worlds, they're in various stages of progression. Some of these Telestial world's only have two people on them. They have an Adam and Eve. Some of these Telestial world's have billions of people on them, and they are in the end of their progression getting ready for the second coming of a Messiah. And that Telestial world will come to end and become a Terrestrial millennium.

And so in the universe we have these worlds, who are in various stages of progression... are found throughout the universe in millions and millions of different places.

So what you've got is all of these children, of these mothers and fathers in heaven, on these worlds who are going to school to learn how to become like their parents. And to inherit everything that their parents have. There's not a one of these mothers and fathers in heaven, there's not a one of them, that did not go through this very same thing that you and I are going through. They did not get to be where they are at by any other way. There is only one pathway to Godhood and it passes through a Telestial world somewhere. So literally in order to get to heaven you have to pass through hell.

So, if you want a description of hell, one of the things you could do is say, hell is a place were a devil resides. Am I right? Isn't that one description of a hell. Hell is where you find Devils, Yes or No? Yes! Where are the third part that were cast out that become devils. Where are they right now? Here!

Now don't get hung up on the word hell, because the Christian world has a different philosophy, they have a different idea of hell than Latter-day Saints do. For a Latter-day Saint hell is a temporary place of restriction. The only place that we find in eternity that is permanent for wickedness is a place called outer darkness. All other places are temporary.

And people can, as long as it's before the resurrection for the dead, it's possible for people progress and to move from one place to another. If they will. So now we come back to this Telestial world... we find out that this Telestial world, this schoolhouse... all Telestial worlds are school houses, and the children of the gods are in school. School is in session and the test is being administered.

So, let's go to Abraham chapter 3. We have to get a feel for this world that we are in, because it's in this world that the so-called things bad things are happening to good people. 'We will prove them with this new earth' we're going to provide a place for them to go to be tested... *"to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them;"* That's purpose of this is life.

To learn in this new earth is something called wisdom and another thing called knowledge. Those are two things. Because of those two words wisdom and knowledge that caused Adam and Eve to partake of the fruit and fall.

So if you look at a Telesial experience, you're in it. If you will look at this, that you are a child of celestial mom and dad, you have heavenly parents, who have sent you away to school so that you can have experiences in adversity, opposition, and resistance. And those experiences if properly learned and used can lead to wisdom and great knowledge. Does that make sense?

Wisdom and knowledge are desired by the gods. Those are two things that give the heavenly mother's and heavenly fathers are power. Satan always twist the truth and adds error and lies and deception, mixed with truth. In fact Satan's power comes from the fact that he uses partial truth. There is always a power associated with truth. The greater the truth and the more on adulterated, the more pure the truth, the greater the power and light. Dark power comes from knowledge that Satan has and he takes God's truth and twisted and changes it.

So Satan has, for example: has his endowment ceremony, Satan has his temples. Temples are true principle. God has always operated through temples. So what does Lucifer do? He counterfeits these temples. And he does that all the time. So you and I need to be able to have a strong enough knowledge of revealed unadulterated truth and to have a background in personal Revelation so that we can keep from being deceived by this master deceiver.

Keep in mind that this man was a very high general authority type, archangel type, massive progressed knowledged person, before he comes out in rebellion against God.

If you become apathetic and say, 'I've got this. Because I'm so happy with it and I don't want anymore.' That's Harding your heart and God will honor that and you will not get anymore. All of us stand out in a place where God offers us something. Different people are being offered different things.

Not everybody's been offered the same thing, because were all in the school but in different grades. It's a one-room schoolhouse and in this one room schoolhouse, called the telesial world, you have kindergartners, first-graders, third-graders, junior high, high school and some graduate students all in the same classroom. That's the telesial world. Whatever it is God offers you, at whatever level you're at, how you respond determines whether you're going to go forward and grow in light or will go backwards and diminish until you lose what you have. It's all based on your choice that you make when God offers you something.

And you must not be satisfied. Joseph Smith's number one frustration was: "that, what God had revealed to him and was available to every other Latter-day Saint... what God revealed to him, the majority of the Latter-day Saints rejected and said, "we don't want to know".

When Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt Egyptian bondage. One of the first things that he wanted to do and the Lord wanted him to do was to sanctify that whole nation of people and prepare them to come up and enjoy an encounter with God. God told Moses to bring that whole nation, that numbered in the millions of people, up to where they would have an experience in the presence of God, where God would come down from heaven, and show himself to them.

**Mike:** you can read about this in Exodus is chapter 19, 20 and 21. Now it's referring to that here so... they were told... Moses.... God said go down to the people prepare themselves for three days. Washed

their clothes, clean their bodies, don't have any sexual relations with their husbands or wives, and on the third day I want you to bring them up to the mountain and I will come down and show myself to the congregation. I think about that, you guys. This is an opportunity for over 1 million people to actually see God face-to-face and come down and he talked to them.

Now, this God is a glorified being. He is a being of light and power and glory. Whenever a being of light and power and glory comes into a celestial world it upsets nature... nature's upset. Because the celestial world is not the dwelling place of glorified exalted men and women. So whatever God comes down from a celestial level into a celestial world you are going to have nature react to that... in the form of earthquake, tidal waves, fire, volcano, your going to have a reaction. And that's exactly what happened. So when God comes down the mountain that he chooses to come down on to, the Temple place, Sinai, is on fire. And the ground is shaking, and it's thundering, and there's lightning, and there's fire, and it scared the dickens out of all those people; and they ran away and stood afar off. [Moses 20:18-19] And so there's Moses standing there by himself, probably with Aaron some of the priests, and he got a million plus people who got out of there. That said, 'Woah... we are not staying here; this is terrible. It scared them to death.'

**student:** He can't hear you <student>[38:48]

**Mike:** are you there? We can't hear <student >, that's okay. So guess what happens, they all go away... And Moses says, 'what are you doing'... and the people turned to Moses and said, 'listen... listen... you go up and talk to God. We're scared. You go talk to him. Then you, Moses, and tell us what he said.' And so they rejected the invitation, that God himself offered these people, as a result we go down to verse 19. "And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom, God" [39:37] That's the Melchizedek priesthood... " even keys of the knowledge of God." This is what Moses and God wanted to give to the whole nation. He wanted to give the Melchizedek priesthood. In verse 20, "*and therefore in the ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood the power of God's is manifested*" Without the ordinances of the priesthood thereof power of Godliness is not manifested to men in the flesh for without this, the priesthood and the ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood no man can see the facing God even the father and live. This is what God wanted to give the children of Israel. It was a priesthood that brought them into the presence of God and redeem them from the fall. Now look at the next verse verse 23 [D&C 84:23], "*Now this Moses plainly taught to the children of Israel in the wilderness, and sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God;*" that's Exodus 20:19. [D&C 84:24] "*But they harden their hearts and could not endure his presence; therefore the the Lord in his wrath, because his anger was kindled against them, swore that they should not enter into this rest while in the wilderness, which was the fullness of his glory.*" [25] "*Therefore, he took Moses out of their midst, and the holy priesthood also; and the lesser priesthood continued,...*" That's what happened.

Now look in our day. Great parallels. Joseph Smith restored a doctrine that was designed to bring the Latter-day Saints into the presence of God to behold his face. But the Latter-day Saints rejected it. As a society they rejected that. This is why Joseph was so frustrated. Okay. So guess what happened. They took Joseph... God took Joseph out of their midst. What happened? He allowed allowed Joseph to be murdered. Look at the parallels. And the program that Joseph wanted to restore was canceled out. And the Latter-day Saints received another program in the form of an administrative organizational New Testament church, which is we have today. Which is wonderful. It's true. But Joseph had something higher in mind. But the latter-day Saints, just like the Israelites, the day of Moses, could no, t would not accept that, therefore, the Lord allowed something lesser to stay until the Latter-day Saints are prepared for something greater that in a future day. You see what I'm saying? So now look at this. The children of Israel said unto Moses, 'you go up and talk to God. We don't want to talk to him. You go talk to him and you telling what he says.'

Now what are the Latter-day Saints do? The latter-day Saints say, "Thomas you go talk to God and you tell us what God says." Instead of the latter-day Saints seeking that personal audience with the Lord that he wants to. We are kind of in a middle ground where we have prophets and apostles and mediate for us because we are not ready to come up and live a life that sanctifies us to agree degree that we can have a personal audience with Christ and enter into his precedence while in this life. There many, many Latter-day Saints that will do nothing, will not act, but will only's respond to what they're told to do by their leaders. And if their leaders don't tell them to do it they absolutely will not do it.

So we has a society condemn ourselves because were acted upon at but failed to act. Prophets and apostles are necessary. The church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is God's church. It's fulfilling a purpose. But the purpose is to get us to a temple. Church membership, brothers and sisters, is designed to get you into the temple. In the temple you're been initiated into something higher than membership in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Membership in the church is not even mentioned in the temple. But membership in the church is necessary in order to get into the temple. Do you see the preparatory steps? So the children of Israel end up with the Aaronic priesthood order, which is designed to move them through ordinances,, and initiations and ceremonies into something greater than eventually brings them into the presence of God while in this life and redeemed you from the fall. But they never did do that. So the whole history of Israel is one of an Aaronic priesthood level preparatory gospel that had baptism, faith, ministry of Angels, but never ever did ever did get to the point where you had the priesthood and the power to bring people into the presence of God. Never happened. So from Moses up until Jesus Christ, you have people who never ever were able to make the step from Aaronic priesthood preparatory to Melchizedek priesthood entering God's presence. And even Jesus, brothers and sisters, even Jesus was not able to bring the New Testament church, as a society, to that group. Albeit there were New Testament members that did raise up, enter through the veil, and become members of the church of the firstborn, and have a personal audience with Christ and the spirits of just men made perfect. So the New Testament saints did obtain the church of the firstborn, the fullness of the gospel. They did do that, but the Old Testament people never did.

**Student:???**{46:06}

**Mike:** interesting enough... Now here's something interesting... watch this. In America you had an Old Testament group of people. So from 600 BC up to Christ, even though it here in America, it's Old Testament. And my right? Because they're practicing the law of Moses and doing all those things that the children of Israel were doing on Eastern side. Guess what. The American Israelites did obtain the presence of God. So their law of Moses practice and Aaronic priesthood fulfilled its purpose and the Nephites did come up and obtained Melchizedek priesthood status, even though practice the law of Moses. They said the law of Moses is dead unto us. It's fulfilled its purpose and we were alive in Christ.

This is why the whole Nephi society was wiped out. Because they had more given to them and sined against the greater light than Israelites did. This is why you have the Nephites that were extincted... distinguished from the earth. Because they had too much given to them they sined against a greater light. And as a result there are no Nephites on the earth, and all we do is have a record of a dead people. Why? Because they obtained Melchizedek redemption through faith in Christ. So the law of Moses work for them but it never worked for the children of Israel on the eastern continent. Never did!

But they wanted it to and Moses tried to but failed. Melchizedek tried and had some limited success. Enoch tried and had some pretty good success. Adam tried and failed. So every patriarch all the way through the Old Testament tried to bring the people up to behold the face of God while they were still alive and pretty much the history of the world one of never achieving that level. Now question comes

up. How are we doing in the Latter-day Saints? Because the same program today. It's still open to us. Every man and woman, individual member of the church, has the opportunity to enter into the presence of the Lord while still alive in this life. You can have a personal audience with the Lord Jesus Christ before you die. In fact it's desirable. The only thing that's keeping us from doing that is what?... us. And the key is hard heart and unbelief. We just don't think it's possible. So were in the possession that Joseph was and the Latter-day Saints in the early days. Don't try to be hard on them because this is the most difficult will overcome in this life my, brothers and sisters, is this unbelief. We read about these things happening in the Scriptures, and we believe that happened to the brother of Jared. We believe that happened to Moses. We had believe that happened to Joseph. But we just absolute cannot see it happening to us. And that is called unbelief and that stops the whole thing.

So if you get a feeling for what this telestial world is, it's the schoolhouse. And the purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to help us graduate from this school, To come out of this, learn the lessons, obtained a degree, and have the advantage, in the world to come. And by the way, the world to come is not celestial. The world to come is terrestrial millennial. If you were to ask 100 Latter-day Saints, what is the world come mentioned in section 130 versus 21 and 22. What's the world to come? Almost all of them will say oh that's the celestial kingdom. No it is not the celestial kingdom.

Go over to section 130 and let me show you. Somehow, as members of the church, we totally skipped over the whole thousand-year-old world. We are jumping right over it as members. Section 130, and we want to look at verses 18 to 19. I said 20 and 21... 18 and 19. *"Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection."* See what where doing, where trying to gain knowledge and intelligence. *"And if a person gains more knowledge"...* remember what Lucifer says... you will have knowledge, *"more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another,"... Watch this... " he will have so much the advantage in the world to come."* Most Latter-day Saints look at that, my experience as a teacher, and I did for years, I need 40 years I looked at it this way... Always thought the world come was the celestial world. No it's not. You don't go from terrestrial to celestial, you got a go from telestial to terrestrial to celestial, there's a sequence here. And we don't out the whole terrestrial world. The terrestrial world is the millennial world and that's the one is coming. Were on the edge of moving from it telestial to a terrestrial world. So you're trying to do in this life, brothers and sisters, is gain an advantage from your experience here so that when we go into the terrestrial millennial world will have an advantage over others. You want to seek for an advantage. The whole name of the game is to do something that gives you an advantage in the next phase of your progression. You want to move up with advantages .. You don't want disadvantages. You don't want to go into terrestrial world disadvantaged. As a matter of fact, if your disadvantaged, you probably won't go there.

**student:** I just have a reality ... that is why our on our situation here, in this world, is based in our performance there.

**Mike:** Exactly! Your advantages in the next world are based on performance here. Everything is. And listen to this, brothers and sisters, watch, think about there are 7 billion people on the earth right. Now, 7 billion people right. How many of those set 7 billion people will in their lifetime have an opportunity to talk about the things we talk about tonight? How many? A lot or a little?

**student:** a little.

**Mike:** a little. You know why a little? You want to know why some will and some won't. Because some of them come here with an advantage. And because they come with an advantage, they come into favorable contact with this information. In other words what you did before you came here is resulting in you sitting here, among other things, tonight and listening to these wonderful doctrines and principles. And is because you have an advantage over everybody else. You have the advantage because

of your diligence and obedience in the previous world.

**student:** So, I have a question. So... basically we are advantaged... Kind of like amazing, unbelievable things, like scientist, rocket scientists. [54:34]

**Mike:** sure.

**student:** Gifted people.... Yeah

**Mike:** They absolutely are gifted people. And they develop those gifts in the world before they came here. The purpose for those developments of those gifts, whether science, or whether it's social studies, or whatever it is music, or whatever it is, come to this world and bless God's others children with their achievements, with their knowledge, and with what they've gained. It's all a process of blessing God's children. Some people, some people in the pre-mortal life, chose to place their emphasis in music. Some people in the pre-mortal life chose to choose their emphasis in judicial affairs and government affairs. Some people chose to place her emphasis in medicines and in healing in the future world. Other chose to place her emphasis in gospel principles and priesthood principles and ordinances, etc. So just as we choose different things in this life, so things happened in the previous life. Then you come in here this world you bring that with you. And all of that helps you progress and also helps you bless all of father's other children that are exposed to your gifts, your talents, and the knowledge and wisdom you came from before you came here. All ends up the blessing everybody. But those... there is choosing the better part. It's Lehi that comes out and says, "I have chosen the better part." There's lots of good things, but Lehi chose something better. And I would submit to you the better part has to do with priesthood, and the Holy Spirit, and the principles of the Gospels, and the knowledge of the gospel, in the mysteries of godlyness. That's the better part. Some chose that, some didn't.

Well, we been at it an hour. I hope that you... have any questions or comments? On any of this. We just kind rambled on a little bit the see where the spirit guided us. You don't have anything really prepared. But to see we're going to go. My purpose on this is to give us a different view of what this life is affording us and what were doing here. What's happening here. What is to be desired for us to be accomplished while we are here so that while we move into the next phase, the world to come, we can do so with an advantage. The purpose of the gods sending their children to this earth is not to become great musicians. The purpose for them to sending their children here is to not to become marvelous mathematicians, and judges, and lawyers. The purpose of sending them here is to become Gods. But their children choose which direction they want to go. Some choose the better part.

Will, love you guys. Will get back together next Sunday at the same time. This is been recorded. We will send you a copy of it and we are sending it out to... we have about 180 people who want to have this class. And it's so will send it out to folks. And as long as you want to do this, and you think it's worthwhile, we will continue to do it.

**Student:** thank you, thank you,

**Mike:** okay love you guys. Let's have a closing prayer.

**Student:** bold that I will say it

**Mike:** thank you.

#### **References:**

Abraham 3: 24-25

Alma 42

Moses 4: 9-11

Moses 4: 6

Alma 12: 9-11

D&C 84:19

Exodus 19, 20, 21