

Podcast 005 Angels and Precious Promises

By Mike Stroud's

Mike: okay, well, I think where we start here. We had an opening prayer. If you've got your Scriptures Andy, we've had questions that come up throughout the week on various things. One of the questions that came up had do the ministry of Angels. I like to just some input on that. Let's go over to Moroni chapter 8, for just a minute, and let's see what the Lord has said about receiving Angels. There is a difference between visions and visitations. In a vision you see and hear something. In a visitation you hear, see, and touch something. And so Moroni was talking about Angels, excuse me it's a chapter 7, not 8. Let's go to chapter 7 verse 29. Let's get some information on this. And here it says, *"Because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, has miracles ceased? Behold I say unto you, Nay, neither have Angels ceased to minister unto the children of man."* Now this is the takeoff verse on the ministry of angels. Gives us more information on this verse than anywhere else in the Scriptures on Angels. Verse 30, *"for behold, they", the Angels, "are subject unto him," Christ, "to minister according to the word of his command,"* now that teaches us something right there, and you can see that in the temple. You can see that very hierarchy and movement governance, God the father speaks to Christ; Christ speaks to messengers; messengers come to man and then return and report to Christ. It says, in verse 30 it says, *to minister according to the word of his command,"* this part right here is the part you want to look at. You want to double underline that this would be the part underline... *"showing themselves"* now that's a visitation. That's not behind the veil. That's where they come and you this see them and you talk to them and they appear to you face to face and you speak to them as one person speaks to another. *"Showing themselves to them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness."* There is your formula from the Book of Mormon on obtaining the administration of Angels. You need to study and pray and ask yourselves, What does it mean to have that kind of strong faith, what does it mean to have a firm mind in every form of godliness? Now look at verse 31. *"The office of their ministry"* this is Angels, *"is the call men unto repentance and to fulfill and do the work of the covenant of the father, which he" the father, "hath made unto the children of men to prepare the way among the children of men,"* this part right here, *"by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him."* now here that verse identifies that those who have strong faith, and a firm mind in every form of godliness, are able to receive the ministry of Angels, that show themselves to them, are considered the chosen vessels of the Lord. So when you come to a point in your sojourn in this life, that you can obtain that blessing of being instructed, and in the temple were told that messengers, and teach us in the ways of life and salvation. Remember that?

Where Adam says, "these are true messengers. I exhort you to your strict heed to their counsel and advice and they will will teach you in ways of life and salvation." See here is another clue. Now look of verse 32, this is really interesting. So we have a group of people here, who because of their faithfulness and a firm mind in every form of godliness, every form of godliness, are able to entertain Angels. And their call the chosen vessels of the Lord. And Now 32, *"and by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men"*. You have got two groups here. When we are talking about the ministrations of Angels. Were talking about those who receive them face-to-face. They are call the chosen vessels and then you're talking about the residue of men. Okay. That when the Lord gives his word to his chosen vessels and a bear testimony of that. In other words, an interesting statement, that when you receive these messengers you're obligated to share that message that they give to you. Now, That there is little clause in there. You have to be careful according to Alma 12. But the message they bring to you is not designed to just stay with you. The message is designed, look what it says, *"to prepare the residue of men that they may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their heart, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men."* This is some great information on the ministry of Angels.

When you receive a true messenger, and he shows himself unto you, you're going to be able to have to discern whether he is the messenger of light or messenger from the dark. As we mentioned in the Joseph Smith quote last week, the prophet Joseph Smith said, "that you need to have the priesthood, and the gifts of the Spirit in order to discern the laws which govern these spirits." there certain laws by which spirits, messengers, Angels, translated beings, spirits of just men made perfect, all of these godly men and women who work for and in behalf of the father and the son; you've got to be able to determine whether there are actually coming from. In order to do that, it's going to require you to attempt to touch them. You're going to have to be able to make an attempt at a touch. That's why said a vision is seeing and hearing something. Of visitation is seeing, hearing and touching something. Because it's in the touching something that part of the discernment comes to tell whether or not they come from the Lord or whether their imposters. Does that make sense?

Student: yeah

Mike: You let me share with you a couple of the things that I've learned through experience and that have proven to be true. Messengers from the Darkside... you can discern them because they have no respect for the agency of man. The laws of agency and the laws of priesthood.... they have no respect for that governance. For example: Angels from the Darkside are intruders. We can use certain words to describe the them. They are Intruders, trespassers, they are imposters, counterfeiters, and have absolutely no... zero respect for the agency of man. And that's one of the way you can discern which side they come from. On the other side though, Angels from the Lord, that we just read about here in Moroni 7, are almost as it were, I'm not going to say they are, but I have the feeling that they are, this is my opinion, found by certain laws that the prophet Joseph Smith said, *"we need to understand and have a knowledge of, so that we can work with the discern and receive the benefits from these messengers."* one of the laws that they respect, that they hold up most, is the law of governing the agency of God's children. They... this is now brother Stroud's experience, okay, a doctrine I'll say from me all say this is my opinion, my opinion is that they need to have permission by you and the invitation extended by you for them to come and administer to you. It's one of the ways that you can discern light from darkness when it comes to messengers that are abroad on the earth, both good and bad. There is a... Elder Holland gave a talk, and I get that talk to you, it's called, That the Enemy had no more place for your souls, something like that, and in that talk he says that we need to ask for Angels to come and help us... Ask for Angels to come and help us. [10: 17]

student: so what you're saying, if we have a difficulty...

Mike: you have what?

Student: so what you're saying is if we have a difficulty, or <??> we can ask for Angels.

Mike: that's what I'm saying. And I think that it's largely, <student>, a source of power that we're not tapping into, not because... simply, we don't have the knowledge that it's available. You know the prophet Joseph Smith made a statement here, I'd like to read to you real quickly. One of my favorites, it says, *"a man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge,"* watch this part, *"he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world as evil spirits will have more knowledge and consequently more power than many men who are here on the earth."* Now he is talking, if I understand that right, that if we leave this world ignorant of certain laws and keys that govern beings in the eternal world, and we have an opportunity to obtain that and we don't, those spirit beings will have power over us as we reside in the spirit world upon death because we don't have the necessary knowledge to have preeminence over them. Hence, he says it needs revelation to assist us to give us knowledge of the things of God.

student: where that quote from?

Mike: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith. You can look it up, you just say "a man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge"... just Google that in your individual urim and thumm, called the

Internet. You can find anything you that want. 'A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge'

student: what page?

Mike: pardon

student: what page?

Mike: you'll have to look that up. I don't have the page number are right now. Here is another quote. *"Knowledge is necessary to life and godliness. Knowledge is revelation. Hear all ye brothern is a grand key. Knowledge is the power of God unto salvation."* So what were doing here is, in talking about Angels, brothers and sisters, I'm saying that we're perhaps not tapping into a significant power source to help us in our mortal sojourn here in a telestial world. I can also tell you that, and I think you will believe this, that things are not going to get easier. They going to become more difficult, more confusing, more chaotic as we move through the coming days, months, and years. So we're going to need to have all the help we can. So is what you need to do.

Most of the messenger Angels that minister to us our family members. They are either family members who are coming, that have not been born yet, that you are either their mother, their grandmother, or the great grandmother, they are coming; or they are they your ancestors, loved ones, who have been here and have proceeded you in death, and are in the spirit world looking back. Those are usually the messengers that the Lord helps because their assigned to us by family ties and foreordained ordinances. And they have, and you and I, are in the mix. We are in the battleground, so those who haven't been born, that are coming through us through our bodies, and those who have been here before us that we comes through their bodies, have vested interested interest in us successfully completing our period of time at the schoolhouse. Does that make sense?

Student: Yes

Mike: so we need to be more actively involved in asking for their help. Now remember two things: permission and an invitation. I have learned that from personal experience, so I can testify to you that that is true. They want to help but many times don't because we don't make the invitation. Comment.

student: well, my dad was in genealogy and quite a bit and... before he died he call this together and I asked him, and I said... if he will come and help me do the genealogy, If you have permission. So in other words, I could ask... I could ask for him to come and help me.

Mike: I think you can, and it's interesting that you said... if we have permission... Which I think we interpret that all too often interpret that as meaning permission from God or from eternal beings. And that may well be, but it may be the main permission has to come from us. We're in the state of opposition. We're state behind the veil, where in a state where they will not intrude. I found out that they seldom does God intruded in the agency of man. I won't that he can't, but my experiences from what I've learned, is that he seldom does. We have to put our trust in him, who knows the beginning from the end, the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. And he does.

So here's another thing to remember is that these Angels, just like in this world, we have people with different skill sets, different talents, different gifts of the spirit,so do they; even though they are not in the mortal world at this time as mortals in the telestial world, they are still in a state of probation. They are still progressing, and part of their progression is that they have experience, and knowledge, and gifts that they've developed through the gospel of Jesus Christ, just like you and I are doing. And When you invite them, identify and be specific as to the kind of help that you need. If you're struggling with addiction, if you're struggling with spiritual warfare, with dark spirits, if you're struggling with interpersonal relationships or marriage difficulties, you can specify help from Angels that have skills in those different areas. In other words, brothers and sister, the more specific we can be in our request and our inquiries, the more readily they are going to be answered. Vague questions seldom elicit a clear response. Thoughts or comments.

student: Mike

Mike: yes

student: my great great grandfather died and his wife... he appeared to her one evening and he said I come to talk with you and that we can make amends old things... That I've gotten permissions to come and see you. He said that I have had a hasty temper through my life but I always loved you from my youth and then he went on to talk about other things, but that was thing... he had gotten permission from the top, the thing that I have... that he asked permission from those on the other side for him to come here. And then at the end of the... At the end of the revelation he said to Her I will come and get you and you'll know when I come because you will say behold the horsemen behold the chariot of fire and the horsemen thereof. And the children testified that's what happened when she died.

Mike: interesting. Again that concept of permission comes up. Will, brothers and sisters, I have had personal experience where we have asked for specific help in behalf of people who are in were dramatic need and that helped was given in astounding ways. In one case we asked for Angels who had specific gifts in healing the physical body of diseases and ailments and just prior to a daughter of mine going into surgery, and as they wheeled her in, just before she went under the anesthetic there were six men who surrounded the operating table, 2 on each side, one at the foot, one of the head, that stood next to the doctors and nurses and counsel them in the operation that she came through successfully. So I know that this is true principle, and I given to us in the hope that we can access this power. It's my testimony that more than ever before we're going to need the help of these beings and they may be hindered from helping us simply because we don't ask. [20:03]

It's like last week, last week we talked about adversity, and we talked about prayer. In the Bible dictionary under prayer at, again, I recommend you read that whole section, is one of the great jewels Bible dictionary, that there are blessings already foreordained and reserved for you as it were blessings that have your name on them, that are not being realized in your lives, simply because they're conditioned upon you asking for them. That's a sobering thing, and that's a great awakening for me. When I started realizing that if you received not it's because you asked not. And as Nephi said, therefore he was parish in the dark. Something as simply as asking, is all that it needs to unlock the powers of heaven and start to have a flow and your life that will give you power and knowledge. Anyway, I give that to you.

student: Mike, it's difficult

Mike: pardon

student: it is difficult, we don't want to ask amiss.

Mike: usually you can tell if you ask it amiss because we need to quote the second part of that Scripture, it says, if you asked not amiss if you consume it upon your lusts. So you can tell if your prayers are amiss by you can measure that if what you're asking for is being consumed upon your lusts, unrighteous desires, vain glory, etc. etc. So, I think most of us don't ask amiss. I think the problem with most of us is we don't ask. Let alone ask amiss, we just don't ask. I know that's the way it's been in my life. When I learned this little secret, several years ago, when the heavens started to open up and the veil thinned out in Revelation increased, ask, seek, knock... Ask, seek, knock. Of coarse the knocking part... The place for you knock is the veil. So asking proceeds seeking, seeking proceeds knocking, and knocking parts the veil.... And you are seen as you are seen. You see as you are seen... See those kind of things.

Which takes us into what I would like to talk to you about tonight. I'd like to talk to you for the remaining time on something in the Scriptures called precious promises. You go to 2 Peter in the Bible... 2 Peter chapter 1. I hope the Holy Ghost will give us utterance on this. I want to teach this in a

way that is understandable. In a little bit the time that we have here, so I pray that the Holy Ghost will be with us... It's a significant, significant doctrinal principle. Now 2 Peter chapter 1. Joseph Smith said this about Peter the apostle, Peter the apostle penned the most sublime language of all of the apostles. How's that for a quote? We all there? 2 Peter chapter 1.

student: yeah.

student: sure.

Mike: let's go on down here to verse 1, *"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."* Think about what we just read about on knowledge by Joseph Smith. *"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God"* now this part right here, *"according to his divine power hath given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"* now this is a group of people, who have obtain something that the majority don't obtain and never will. Now look at verse 4, "whereby," in other words, through this knowledge, through this glory, *"whereby are given unto us"*, this part right here, *"exceeding great and precious promises:"* that is the part that you want underline. *"That by these,"* these promises *"that by these, ye might be partakers of the divine nature."* now, brothers and sisters, this is the only place in all of the written Scriptures where the phrase 'divine nature' is mentioned. It's the only place where you find that. Now in order to become a partaker of the divine nature, you have to obtain these exceeding great and precious promises. When you do, look at the last part of verse 4, you escape the corruption of this world through lust. It puts you in a position where you are above the temptations of the devil. It Doesn't mean that he will stop tempting you, but to have no effect. Do you think it is possible for you to get then this point in this life where Satan's temptations have no more effect on you?

Student: Yes, yes I do

Mike: it is possible because if you go to the temple, you'll notice that at a certain of the temple, the temple tells us these things. The father and the son send down messengers and they cast Satan out of their midst. Remember that? And they come down and they do that. At that point Adam and Eve are above falling. Something has been given to them. They did obtain something whereby they cannot fall. Now let's go a little bit further, go to verse 5, now he list some of the things that you will obtain through these precious promises a being partakers of the divine nature. The divine nature, brothers and sisters, is God's character, it's who he is, it is his core, it's everything about him in perfection and fullness... those are the two words: everything about him in perfection and fullness. So as we read some of these attributes, some of these characteristics of God's nature, know that they reside in the father and son in a fullness and in perfection. And we may obtain portion, but in them resides a fullness. Okay? So let's look at some of the things that Peter lists. He says, *"and besides this,"* beside escaping the corruption of this world through lust; *"beside this, giving all diligence, and to your faith"*, is the first thing you notice, and if you will notice up in verse 1, these people have already, look up in verse 1, they've already obtains a precious faith. They are already are... Have and unshaken faith, which the book of Mormon calls and unshaken faith. You can't shake it. Then you add to that faith, look at the next thing "virtue" and another word for virtue, if you looking at dictionary, especially 1828 version of the Marion dictionary, which is the dictionary Joseph had, another synonym for virtue is power. And to virtue knowledge, there it is, see this line... so you got faith, virtue, knowledge and after knowledge temperance, after temperance , patience and to patience godliness; see this list, and to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness charity. Now there is a list. Can I tell you it begins with faith and ends with... what?

Student: Charity.

Mike: charity. Which is the greatest of all the gifts and attributes and characteristics of the father and the son. If you are in possession of charity, brothers and sisters, you have all the others spiritual gifts there. If you are in possession of patience you may not have charity. If you are in possession of

kindness and gentleness and meekness not have charity. But if you have charity you have all of these things. So this is a list that begins of faith and ends with charity. Now watch the next verse, this is where it gets interesting, *"for if these things be,"* those features, those attributes *"be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

How many times if you see the work knowledge used in these verses?

Student: A lot.

Mike: verse 9, *"but he that lacketh is these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hast forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."* Now this verse right here- significant, now watch, this is a triple underliner verse, *"wherefore the rather, brother,"* in other words, now after everything that I've said to you, *"give diligence to the make your calling and election sure:"* now, that is the only place in all of the Scriptures, it's including the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants that the words 'calling and election made sure' is written. No wonder Joseph said that Peter penned the most sublime words of all the apostles; *"For if you do these things,"* watch, *"you shall never fall:"*[30:27]

now most people stop right there, but I want to go to the next verse, *"for so than entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* If you obtain this thing called 'calling and election made sure', with it you obtain a promise of an entrance into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. And you cannot fall. And you come to a point where Satan has no power over you. What we need to be thinking about here, we need to be paying attention to obtaining precious promises from the Lord. Now remember as in everything, you cannot obtain anything if you don't know about it. And if you do it all about it you still can't obtain it if you don't ask for it. The purpose, of the reason knowledge is so enthroned in these verses is that knowledge is the basis of action. How can you seek for something that you don't know anything about. So tonight's lesson that I would hope that you are learning things about Angels, and spirits, and precious promises, that we will change your prayer vocabulary and that you will be more specific in using the words used by these holy prophets which are given to them by Angels, delivering messages for Christ under the directions of the father, that use those words in your prayers. And if you will use these words, if you will start using the words of obtaining precious promises, making your calling and election made sure, to inheritance and entrance into the everlasting kingdom of the father. And you start using verbiage like that , or something like, that you feel inspired to do, I can promise you that you're going to start receiving things that you haven't received before. It's all hinged on asking specifically and being guided by the spirit in your request. Questions or comments.

Student: I like it..

Student: he said, He says he likes it. [33:00]

Mike: let's go over and look at another couple of places. I want to take you to several different places. Briscoe doctrine and covenants Section 2; and in section 2 of the Doctrine and Covenants, this is a little section that we don't give a lot of attention to, but now that were talking about promises... This was... these are the exact words of the Angel Moroni to Joseph Smith, on the evening of September 21, 1823. This was given before the Book of Mormon even given out of the ground. Okay? And what he says is, goes up to verse 1, look at it, it says *"Elijah is to reveal,"* in the heading, section 2 *"Elijah is to reveal the priesthood,"* now look at this next verse; *"the promises of the fathers are planted in the hearts of the children."* [33: 56]

Now you ought to be perking up now when you see the words promises. I want you to ask yourself the question now, because this is the first that we use all the time in genealogy work, that Elijah will come and restore the priesthood, will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers least I come and smite years with a curse. That's the one we think about, talk about. Now look it's a little different. Let me show you two different ways. The one we quote never mentions promises. It just says turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. Am I right?

Student: yeah

Mike: so what's the one we use all the time to quote about genealogy right?

Student: right

Mike: but now look at verse 1. *"Behold, I will reveal on to use the priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet,"* Why do you think he puts in their by the hand? What do you know as a result of tonight's discussion that might give added light on that? So Elijah appears to Joseph...

student: are you a true messenger

Mike: yeah, you want to know, are you a true messenger? Remember last week I quoted eight things that a false messenger can give you, that all on face value appeared godly. How are you going to tell if this is a true messenger? Because when Elijah comes he gives his hand. And why does he give his hand? Because he has asked to. Where does that come from? Section 129, 1843, when Joseph was starting to reveal, in the red brick store, the ordinances of the temple endowment. *"I will reveal unto you"* notice that 'I will' is plural, it didn't happen until 1836, and we are in January 1929. *"By the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming the great and dreadful day of the Lord."* Now here's the part that is different. *"And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming."* Now you have to ask yourself a couple of questions: who are the children?; Who are the fathers? Before we do that, let's look at one more... Let's go to Joseph Smith - History. Joseph Smith - History... And here we have a little bit different readings of it. It's a little different, and we never quote these things and never look at this. So in Joseph Smith - History, and we want to go to verse 38. This is Moroni, now, and he's quoting the Scriptures out of Isaiah, the book of Joel, out of acts and many many other Scriptures that Joseph said in another place that he quoted many... as many 35 other scriptural sources. But Joseph says... which I won't mention at this time. What did he say? Let's go to verse 38, here's one of them that he quotes, and it's out of the book of Malachi. But he quotes it just a little bit different. Okay?

Student: Mike, where are you Mike

Mike: where in the Joseph Smith – History; verse 38. All the way back. Joseph Smith - History

student: okay

Mike: verse 36 says, *"After telling me of these things,"* meaning the Urim and Thumum, *"he commenced quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament. He first quoted part of the third chapter of Malachi; and he quoted the fourth or last chapter of the same prophecy, though with a little variation from the way it reads in the Bible."* Did you catch that? So, what you're getting here from an Angel is different from what you read this in the Bible. So let's look at it, first 38. Are you all there?

Student: yes

Mike: Joseph Smith - History verse 38, this *"And again, he quoted the fifth verse thus: Behold, I will reveal unto you the priesthood by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. He also quoted the next verse differently: and he shall plant in the hearts of the children of the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole world would be utterly wasted at his coming."* Now, as with all Scriptures, there are different levels of truth. One of the levels of truth is the one that we quote all the time, and it is true that the hearts of the fathers will turn to the children. And we quote the fathers being our deceased ancestors, who have preceded us and are now in the spirit world, and that this thing that Elijah is restoring, and whatever he is doing, is going to create a welding link between them who have gone on and us who are still here. And that is true. I don't have any problem with that. Except I question what the promises made to the fathers. What are the promises made to the fathers? And the hearts of the children? What are these promises? Well, we go back to Peter, and there are several different kinds of promises. Lehi received a promise that he would obtain a land of promise. Joseph in Egypt received a promise that a great seer would come through his loins. So there's all kinds of

promises. But Peter talks about exceeding precious, great and precious promises. And the one that he talks about has to do with obtaining the promise from God, from his own mouth, that you will inherit a place in his kingdom. This is called 'making your calling and election sure' by a process called 'the more sure word of prophecy'. The promises that were made to the fathers is that they obtain these things. Our New Testament tells us that there is a whole group of Saints, members of the New Testament church, that obtained the Church of the Firstborn.

Go over to section 107 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Let me show you something that is interesting. We have so much more available to us that we are not tapping into because we were lacking the knowledge to ask for it.[40:40] Section 107 in the Doctrine and Covenants and let's go to verse 18 and 19. This is what we're talking about here. Think about the promises to obtain the blessings mentioned in these verses. Are you there? Section 107 verse 18.

Student: yes

Mike: *"The power and authority of the higher, or Melchizedek priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church –"* Among the spiritual blessings of the church are the promises that we can obtain from God himself through his own mouth. I want to emphasize that. We have the right to God speak to us. We may not see him but we will hear his voice, and his voice will call you by your name, and it will be the name that your most often known by in this world. And when he calls you by your name he's going to promise you an inheritance/entrance into his kingdom. And he will do that because you have been tried, tested in all things and found to be true and faithful.

Now, look what he says, these mysteries, these blessings, in verse 19 here they are. But are the spiritual blessings? *"To have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdoms of heaven,"*... Brothers and sisters, are there some things that you would like to ask God that you have always wondered about? Are there things you have wondered about, that others have said... 'Those are the ministries. You want to leave those alone.' By the way, that is counter to true doctrine. You have the opportunity to receive *"the ministries of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens open unto them,"*. There's the second blessing. Can I tell you that this is one that builds upon the other. You can't have the heavens open unto you till you've obtained and knowledge of the mysteries. Because a knowledge of the ministries gifts you knowledge and keys that unlock the doors that parts the veil... And you now have conversation with those who live on the other side. So, this is a process. This is something that builds on it. Look at the next thing. *"To have the heavens open unto them, to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn,"* Do you know who those people are? Why that is the city of Enoch. They are the church of the Firstborn. They are translated beings that live in Enoch's Zion. Now, there are members of the church of the Firstborn here on the earth. When you obtain, that me tell you this, brothers and sisters, when you obtain these promises that Peter is talking about, when you obtain an and entrance and a promise to an inheritance in the everlasting kingdom of Christ the Lord and the father, you become a member of the church of the Firstborn. Now you hold dual citizenship, dual membership, you hold membership in the output church below. We used to have a hymn that we sang in the church; it was written by Eliza Follen called, 'The Outward Church Below.' And the outward church below is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the telestial world. The inward church above is the church of the firstborn, and that is translated beings, and Angels, and God's... That's with a small 'g', that minister to people in the telestial world and help them come up to where there at.

Look at the rest of this. *"To commune with the general assembly and the church of the firstborn,"* here is the next one, *"and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the father, and Jesus the mediator of the new covenant."* Now those are the blessings and promises that we have. Those promises are made to every one of us here listening to this tonight. Every one of us have access to those exceeding precious promises. Now, let me ask you a question as we kind of wrap things up here. If you obtain

those promises from the Lord and your still here in this life, which, by the way is what you want to do, seek for that... These promises have their greatest potential, greatest power, while you're still a workable in the telestial world. Can you imagine, how would it affect your life, your day in and day out interaction with your fellow man and in the telestial world, your interaction with your husband or wife, your interaction with your other family members and church... How would it affect your life if God had spoke to you personally, calling you by name and... And you heard his voice and he promised you with his own mouth, accompanied by the confirmation of the Holy Spirit of promise, that you now are sealed up to eternal life and have an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God with the father and the son? What would that do? How would you act? Would that make a difference in how you lived your day in and day out life as sojourners and wanderers in this telestial world? Would it make a difference? Would you do things differently? Would you view things differently? Would you love people differently? Would you forgive more fully?[46:33] would you judge more righteously if you had obtained those promises? What difference would it make? And, if it would make a difference, why not seek for it?

So, let's go to Ether chapter 12 and let me give you an example of something. When you obtain these promises, you also obtain power over the natural world. When you obtain these promises, you are now living in a telestial world but you have become a terrestrial being. It's also possible that with these promises you can... You can receive translation through the Melchizedek priesthood. It's possible, because translation is a doctrine that belongs to the terrestrial world. And the things were talking here, these promises that were talking about, these promises are that elevate you into the terrestrial world. You are still living here but you are now a terrestrial being and have access to terrestrial knowledge and power. Part of translation and terrestrial knowledge is that time and space don't control you like they do here now.

So in Ether chapter 12, Moroni is talking about the brother of Jared, and he is pondering as I have pondered... And it's because of my pondering the Lord led me to this, to help me see this. Okay, Ether 12, Moroni is talking about this man, who saw the finger of God. I want you to go to verse 19... Go to verse 17... Now think about the promises now, here we go, verse 17. *"And it was by faith"* are you all there? *"That the three disciples" that's the Nephites. "obtained a promise that they should not taste death; and they obtain not the promise until after their faith."* Now, that is the format for us. If you want to obtain these promises you're going to be tried. The greater the promise, the greater the glory, the greater the trial. If you want to be and Abraham, a father of many nations, a Prince of peace, you are going to have to undergo and Abrahamic test. Will that be that your commanded to kill your son, probably not. But I will tell you that whatever it is will be as difficult for you, as challenging, and as wrenching your heart strings, as Joseph Smith said, *"that God will wrench your very heartstrings so that when you pass that trial you will have an inheritance with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and more importantly than that you will feel comfortable being there" so now look what else he says in verse 18, "and neither at any time have any rock miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the son of God."* That's where we all are. *"And there were many whose faith was so exceedingly strong, even before Christ came, who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with the eye of faith, and they were glad."* Did you pick up something there? If you're seeking for these things, brothers and sisters, before you physically obtain them you have to see them in your mind. If you want to have ministering of an Angel, in your meditation and prayer practice and pondering, you have to visualize entertaining an Angel. If you want to hear Christ voice calls you by name, you have to visualize that. It's called seeing things by the eye of faith. And every one of these people who physically obtained a promise first of all saw with the eye of faith before they obtained it physically. And when they obtained it physically they were glad. There is a sequence. See?

Yes Now it gets better, watch. *"And behold, we have seen"*, and this is verse 20, *"in this record that one of these was the brother of Jared; for so great was his faith in God, that when God put forth his finger he could not hide it..."* Now I thought about that. Could I do that? And I probably thought, I could do that, but if I'd had the experience of the brother of Jared did before he sees Christ. *Now, this is where I want to take you tonight ...* We read the record over there in Ether 3, and we just think that nothing proceeded that tremendous manifestation where he stretches forth his finger and touches the stones and Christ says did you see more than this and the brother of Jared in this astounding faith comes out and says nay Lord, show myself unto me. I've read that over the years and I thought 'man, where did he get that kind of confidence? Where did that come from? And then the Lord showed me ... And I stumbled upon... Either I was mentored by somebody, or the Lord showed me, I don't know who it was but the answer is in verse 20. *"God put forth his finger", verse 20, "he could not hide it from the sight of the brother of Jared, because"*. Now you ought to circle that word [because] and triple underline because here comes the mystery of godliness. *"Of his word", Christ word, "which Christ [he] had spoken unto the brother of Jared [him], which word he had obtained by faith."* What is the word? What is this word? Well, the word is the precious promise. The brother of Jared before he sees Christ physically had obtained promises from the voice of the Lord, the word of the Lord came to him; he didn't see that he's heard his voice, he's obtained the promise and because of that promise when this situation unfolds on the mountain the brother of Jared has unbelievable confidence and faith. Why? Because he's already heard the voice of Christ speaking to him and obtained precious promises before he ever smelts out the 16 stones.

Student: I have had.. I've never heard that, Mike, before. That's amazing.

Mike: isn't that amazing? Now look at the next verse, you get a mystery, these are the mysteries of godliness. This is the knowledge that opens the veil, brothers and sisters. So look at the next verse and will close on this. Watch, now behold *"And after the brother of Jared had beheld the figure of the Lord"...* Finger of the Lord... Circle this word [because]... *"Because of the promise which the brother of Jared had obtained by faith."* There is the key.

Student: wow

Mike: there is the key. *"The Lord could not withhold anything from his site; wherefore he showed him all things, for he could no longer be kept without the veil."*

Student: that is amazing

Mike: so now think about this, brothers and sisters, this is the pattern for us. The prophet Joseph Smith said this, in closing, *"the Lord hath not revealed anything to Joseph but that he will reveal unto the 12 and even the least of the latter-day Saints may obtain all things as soon as they are able to bear it."*

Everything you read about in the Scriptures has to be available to you in 2016 whether it's Old Testament, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, church history... I don't care what it is. It has to be available to you or God is a liar because he said that I am no respecter of persons, I changed not, and there is no such shadow of changing in me. It has to be available to us or God cannot say that without lying.

So what is it we need to get to this point? We need knowledge and a man or woman is saved no faster than they get knowledge. Now there is more on this. I would just invite you to go and look up under promises of the Lord and just do some study on this. Okay? There are great promises. I'll close by giving you the last and great promise. Section 88 go to section 88 in this is what the Lord calls the last and greatest of all promises. We want to go to section 88, and we want to look at verse 67, 88 verse 67 and 68 and 69. Go with me section 88 verse 67... Are you all there? Will close on the Scripture, now think about these promises. Right? *"And if your eyes be singles to my glory, your whole body shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light*

comprehend all things. Therefore," now that there 'therefore' word says because your body is filled with light, because you can comprehend all things, because your eyes are singled in my glory, *"sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and his own way, and according to his own will.* Now, brothers and sisters, we think that that's talking about the second coming, we think that's talking about death, but can I the criteria of: eye single to my glory, feel your body was light, sanctify yourselves, let your minds be singled to God, all of that is not necessary if he's going to a show himself after the period of time in the telestial world. It's not necessary. Millions of men are going to seek his face, hear his voice, and testify, bow the knee, and confess with the tongue. So these verses are us here behind the veil in the telestial world- NOW. Not it sometime after death, not in the resurrection, not at the second coming... Now. And look what he says, 69, *"remember the great and last promise which I have made unto you;"* what is the great and last promise he's made? What is it in 68? *"The day will come that you shall see [me] him; for [I] he will unveil his face [before] unto you,"* this is the great and last promise. Now go over the page and look at verse 75. Let's go to 74. *"And I given to you, who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment that you assemble yourselves together; and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves"...* that's what we do in the church, past the purpose of the church right there. *"Assemble yourselves together; and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves,"* the purpose of the gospel is to *"sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean;"* do you see the between the gospel in the church? The church brings us together. We organize ourselves. We prepare ourselves. We assemble ourselves. And then the Lord gospel sanctifies, purifies your hearts, make sure hands and feet clean, that I may make you clean. What this all for? Why? Verse 75, *"that I may testify unto your father, and your God, and my God, that you were clean from the blood of this wicked generation;"* here we go... *"That I may fulfill this promise, this great and last promise, which I have made unto you, when I will."* And what is that? Well, it all begins with faith, builds up to charity, peels the veil, you see the face of Christ; before that you hear his voice, you obtain promises. It builds up your confidences. This is why you have to have the more sure word of prophecy before the second comforter. You have to have God's voice speak to you, calling you by name, because in that you develop unshakable faith, a confidence that cannot be moved. And that enables you to peel back the veil and enter into the presence of the Savior... In this life.

Well, we've gone over time. Did you learn anything that you... Any questions or comments that you would like to make on that? Were all through.

Student: this is very exciting

Mike: Something to ponder on. If you have questions, brothers and sisters, email them to me. And I'll answer your questions or comments and then, what I'll do, all share them with you at the beginning of each lesson; so others can also learn from what you have to say, and what your thoughts are. Will that be okay?

Resources:

Moroni 7:29-32

2 Peter 1

D&C 2

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith , Joseph Smith

D&C 129

Joseph Smith History; 36, 38 – 39

D&C 107:18

Ether 12:17-21

D&C 88: