

Podcast 023 The Terrestrial World by Mike Stroud

Mike: Let's go to section 76 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Tonight I would like to discuss with you the great terrestrial world. The terrestrial world. We're in a telestial world right now. The telestial world is a 'hell' place. 'Hell' meaning the definition of 'a place of restriction.' One of the main restrictions is the veil. You get into the terrestrial world and the celestial worlds and you don't have that veil so, by definition a Hell place is a place where there is some pretty serious restrictions...the veil being one. Another is it's a place where devils and unclean spirits reside and have interaction with mortals. They provide the opposition necessary for our progression on the path back to the Father. So, tonight I'd like to chat a little bit with you about 'the world to come.' Now section 76 gives us just a little glimpse and we'll come to that in a minute. I want to quote for you, a verse for you out of section 130. It says this, ***"Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, [in the telestial world] it will rise with us in the resurrection. [The resurrection, that's some future time down the road]. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life, through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come."*** That's section 130 in the Doctrine and Covenants verses 18 and 19. That's a great scripture. The older I get and the more I learn about the gospel the more significance that scripture has. On Podmatic, Margie put a funeral sermon that I spoke at here a week ago, and the theme for that funeral sermon was D&C 130: 18,19 talking about an advantage in the world to come. Now we talked a little bit about this. What we want to do, and wherever we're at, whether in a first estate, a second estate, a third estate. Whatever estate we're in we want to, by the end of that estate, and there's a judgment at the end of each estate. There's always a judgment. What you want to do when you pass through that judgment is to enter the world to come, the next world, with an advantage. Now you did that when you left the first estate and came here. And you enjoyed tremendous advantages in this life, and we can list many of those, we won't but it comes as a result of who you were and what you did and where you were in the previous estate. And the same thing applies here. Now the world to come is not the spirit world. It could be. It could be. But the spirit world, after death, is still part of the Telestial Kingdom. It is true that there are some people in the spirit world who have attained a Terrestrial level and those people are in a state of Paradise. But it's not the Terrestrial World that we're talking about that's ushered in by Christ at His Second Coming. That's the one we want to talk about tonight. So, what we do in this world, what we're doing here right now, is either going to allow us to move into this next estate, this next world, advantaged or disadvantaged. The disadvantage qualifies you from even being there. You won't make it. If you don't pass the judgment of the telestial world, you can't enter into the Terrestrial World. So we're going to refer to the Terrestrial World as the following; we're want to refer to it as the third estate. Even though that's not scriptural, it is. I want you to know that it is a probationary estate. We'll talk about that tonight. Most of the members of the church, when we talk about being in a probationary estate, will almost exclusively limit that to the telestial world we're in now. But the estate before we came here, the premortal life, was also a probationary estate. It's possible, brothers and sisters, to be in a probationary estate that is veiled and to be in a probationary estate that is unveiled. You're in a probationary veiled estate right now, the telestial world. All telestial worlds are veiled probationary places. The estate before we came here was also a probationary estate but it was unveiled. You were in the presence of God. And yet, one third of the host of heaven, a third part, not a third percent, a third part, failed to pass that probationary test. In this world, if you don't achieve a level that qualifies you for a Terrestrial Kingdom you will have failed the second estate. Those who fail the second estate, mortality, fail to rise above a telestial level and they fail. And so their disadvantage is that they are not allowed to enter the great Terrestrial Millennial third estate. They can't do it. And their spirits that die in the Second Coming and their spirits remain in a Hell place, in the spirit world, for 1,000 years. They're still in school. They're still in session. They did not pass the course. Comments or thoughts on that?

Student: So the terrestrial then, you're saying, is after we leave here. And it's not in Paradise? Is that what you're talking about?

Mike: What I'm saying is people's spirits who have lived on this earth and die, that have been redeemed from the fall, that merit a paradise state in the spirit world, have attained a terrestrial level of spirituality. Ok? Now, they're not in the Terrestrial World. You and I need to rise above this world and attain unto a terrestrial status. Now we'll talk about what that is, what qualifies a person for the terrestrial status. But those who don't do that cannot enter into either paradise in

spirit world, or are not qualified to enter into the terrestrial world that will be ushered in after the Second Coming of Christ. So the great burning that takes place, the great flames in the fire; Joseph Smith said “Noah came before the flood. I come before the fire.” And the fire is the Glory of Christ when he appears with the Enochian saints, the city of Enoch that comes down, when they come they will appear in fire and the glory of their appearance will cleanse the earth of everything that is telestial. Everything that’s telestial; animals, buildings, anything that pertains to that world will end. This is why we’re told it’s the Second Coming. The terrestrial world will usher in a new heaven and a new earth and all old things will become new.

Student: So our gardens and our trees, all that just goes away.

Mike: All that goes away.

Student: That’s sad.

Mike: Well, when we say goes away, is that it’s just changed back into another status. The people, their bodies die in the fire and their spirits go into the spirit world into a telestial place, not paradise, but a telestial place where their education continues. Hopefully they will be able to better themselves, and improve themselves during that thousand year period that their spirits are held there and when they come out have advantages that they didn’t have when they went in. So the whole idea, brothers and sisters, is to help God’s children based on wherever they’re at, which comes as a result of their choices, move up. Always moving up, always pulling them up higher so they can enjoy greater light, truth, and privileges. Jay? Comment?

Jay: I like what Spencer says about how our diet changes. How the gardens are MORE beautiful. The food and the things are more desirable than they are in this world.

Mike: Yes, you get a real good feel of the Terrestrial World through Spencer’s book Visions of Glory. So, let’s talk for just a minute and let’s talk about translation. The prophet Joseph Smith says that the doctrine of translation is a doctrine that belongs to a terrestrial order. So you take people like John the Revelator, you take the Three Nephites, you take Alma, you take Phillip, you take the various characters, Moses. You take all of those people in the past who have obtained translation, they now abide by the order of a terrestrial level. So translation is not celestial. It’s terrestrial. We always want to jump from rung 2 on the ladder to rung 6. We have a tendency to want to do that. If I were to ask people what the world to come is, and mention Section 130:18-19, and I’ve done this so I know what they’ll answer. Almost without exception, the majority will answer the celestial world. A few will say the spirit world. But the majority will say the celestial world so we’re going from a telestial second estate, and wanting to jump to a celestial fourth estate and we drop out the third terrestrial order altogether in our thinking. The world to come is that thousand year millennial terrestrial third estate. You want to be there, brothers and sisters, because there are lessons to be learned, experiences to have, wisdom to be gained in this estate that prepares you for the celestial. I don’t believe that anyone can enter into a celestial glory and bypass the terrestrial millennial world. I think it’s a sequence. I think it’s a rung on the ladder and to miss that would severely limit you and give you great disadvantages in eternity. So it’s a step by step process and that’s the world that’s coming.

Student: So what you are saying then, is that we are going to have a terrestrial experience is during the Millennium or while we’re here?

Mike: The terrestrial experience, the terrestrial world, the world to come is the Millennium, but you can have a Terrestrial experience, as an individual person while still living in the telestial world. In fact, that's desirable. Now that's desirable that we come up and that we obtain that level of spirituality and privilege while we're still in the telestial world. Will the majority do that? Absolutely not! Because to do that means that you become Zion. Zion, brothers and sisters, is terrestrial. The concept of Zion does not belong in the telestial World. We only try to be in the telestial World to establish Zion. Every great patriarch that's ever lived from Adam on down has tried to do that. Some have had some success. Enoch, is probably one of the greatest successful Zion establishers and another one is Melchizedek. But Jesus, Himself, was not able to establish a Zion society. He had people within his discipleship that attained it individually, obviously, because we know that Phillip was translated. And there were people there according to Paul in the book of the Hebrews, that they obtained the Church of the Firstborn. So, ancient saints obtained the Church of the Firstborn. The Church of the Firstborn is a Terrestrial order. Does that answer that?

Student: Yes, but at the same time I thought Zion was more of a celestial glory, I mean a celestial order, but you are saying that it's not a celestial order it's a terrestrial order.

Mike: It is a terrestrial order but that's not to say that Zion does not exist in the Celestial Kingdom because the government of the Celestial Kingdom is Zion. But what we're trying to do is we're trying to move people into this society a step at a time. It's not something you can jump into, obviously. So if we couldn't do everything we can start to obtain a Zion society while in the telestial world, it's going to give us huge disadvantages when we enter into the terrestrial world which is a Zion order. The Millennium, during the terrestrial world, will be the great Zion that the scriptures talk about. Isaiah's talking about that. You're gonna see that that's the Zion of the scriptures, has its first real establishment society wide for a lengthy period of time in the millennium. In this world it's been tried, it's been experimented with, it's had limited success with individual's, uh, the closest we've ever come to a Zion society is Melchizedek. Joseph Smith tried it and absolutely could not bring it to pass. Brigham Young tried it. Adam tried it and so it's very, very difficult to do in the telestial world but it is something we're commanded to do.

Student: But Wilford Woodruff wanted it also.

Mike: All of the prophets wanted it, absolutely. There have been a lot of individuals who have obtained that status.

Student: Wilford Woodruff...There's a book, I don't know the title but he looked for it all the time. He was trying for it but I don't think he knew how to get the people to see it. They had the same problem as everyone else. They couldn't see it.

Mike: The greatest impediment to Zion...what do you think the number one impediment to Zion is? What's the biggest obstacle?

Student: Self-pride? Selfishness?

Mike: That's certainly one of them, but the scriptures identified the main-spring of all corruption. This is in section 123 in the Doctrine and Covenants. And the main-spring of all corruption that causes the whole earth to groan under its

iniquity is, according to the Lord, is the 'traditions of the fathers' that are passed on to the children who inherit the father's lies. That's the main impediment. That's what stops Zion. Ok? Interesting huh? Now, brothers and sisters let me just move a little bit further here and let's just talk...what is required for you to be a Zion person? Let's go to section 76, the Lord gives us some statements on that and tells us what it's all about. Section 76, in the terrestrial world begins in verse 71. As you move up in kingdoms from telestial, terrestrial to celestial, it's obvious, the populations decrease as you move up. So in other words, the inhabitants of the telestial world are going to be more than the inhabitants of the terrestrial world and the terrestrial more than the celestial etc. etc. Now look at verse 71: **"We saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo, these are they who are the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn who have received the fullness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament."** Now here we go with the qualifications. 72: **"These are they who died without law;"** Now who do you think that is? Are we talking about children here? Children dying without law? So let's take a little child, since I'm throwing this out, from birth to age eight. A child dies somewhere within that period of time. Are they considered among these in verse 72 that first thing that describes the terrestrial people. Are they those that died without law? Is that children?

Student: Some of us say yes and some of us say no.

Mike: Ok, so little children who die prematurely, what does the scripture tell us? They are alive in Christ and inherit what glory?

Student: The celestial glory.

Mike: The celestial glory, so now then if we are talking about verse 72, the terrestrial world, we are not talking about children when we refer to those who die without law. So we have to be talking about adults, or people who are accountable. Now, the Lord takes a group, it's very interesting, and He gets a group called the heathen nations. The heathen nations. Let's talk about them first of all. Go back to section 45 in the Doctrine and Covenants. This is not something we talk about very often. Section 45 verse 54 the Lord talks about, these are people that inherit a terrestrial world. **"And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection;"** Now the first resurrection is broken into two parts. There's the celestial part of the first resurrection and there's the terrestrial part of the first resurrection. All persons who will resurrect with celestial bodies and all persons who resurrect with terrestrial bodies have part in the first resurrection. Some of the prophets have referred to the celestial being 'the morning of the first resurrection' and I read Joseph Fielding Smith by B H Roberts today, that terrestrial referred to as 'the afternoon of the first resurrection.' It's not scriptural but the brethren have called it that. And notice what it says, **"that they shall have part in the first resurrection;"** these are those that are terrestrial, because obviously you cannot go to the celestial kingdom and be ignorant of law. And so these people die, they didn't know law. **"and it shall be tolerable for them."**

Now let's break down this heathen deal a little bit. Who are the heathen nations? What the heck is that? Any idea?

Student 1: They don't believe.

Student 2: They have no understanding.

Student 1: They have traditions of their fathers.

Mike: Are heathens the same as inactive Christians? Ok, so, by definition, here's your heathen definition. Heathens by definition are people who worship idols. They do not worship the living God. The word heathen comes from the word heath and it means 'living in the country.' They're not city dwellers. They're country dwellers. And 'e-n' at the end of heathen comes from pagan. So heathen and pagan are related. Pagan comes from the word pagas which means 'village.' So these are village country dwellers. That's interesting, something interesting to ponder there. The further away you get from the land, the further away you get from country and into the city dwelling metropolitan areas, the less likely you are to be spiritually inclined. You'll notice in the beginning of the world, Adam had certain sons, in particular Cain, that went off and built cities. It's interesting that those that reject the patriarchal priesthood and the revelations of God; one of the things they did was they went and established themselves in cities. The cities, even anciently, became the places where iniquity and wickedness thrived. Don't you find it interesting that all the ancient fathers, all the patriarchs, the antediluvians, they were all pastoral. They were all out in the country. And don't you find it interesting in our day that there is a desire for city dwellers, city dwellers innately inside, they long to be out in the country, out in the woods, out in the forest. There's something about that. The more we lose touch with the earth the more likely we are to be deceived and seduced by evil spirits. There's something about remaining close to the earth. There's something about putting your bare toes in the grass and your fingers in the dirt.

Student: You'll see in the Book of Mormon you read often that they build cities.

Mike: They built cities and as you'll find out, and when you look at them you'll find out that where they built them that's where they had their problems. The cities are where apostasy developed. They are where persecution developed. So eventually in third Nephi chapter 8, 9 and 10, the Lord has a long list of huge cities that were completely annihilated. Interesting stuff.

So a heathen is a person that is, interesting the name means country dwellers in villages, but the definition of a heathen is those that worship idols. Another definition is the gentiles. So, when Paul takes the gospel to the gentile world in Corinthians, Ephesians and Theologians and different things, the biggest thing he contended with there was the worship of false idols and false gods.

So, here we go brothers and sisters, the heathen nations are terrestrial people. They'll inherit a terrestrial kingdom and it shall be, notice the word, "**tolerable for them.**" I just find that such a fascinating word. It's the only place that I can find in the scriptures where the Lord uses the word tolerable; that is the heathen nations that live and die without law and inherit a terrestrial world in the future.

Let's go back to section 76 verse 73, "**And also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh;**" Now this is the key to that, verse 74, and notice you have a semi-colon at the end of verse 73 and it continues to a period in verse 74. These people were the antediluvians. These are the wicked that Noah preached the gospel to and they rejected it and were still in that hell place, that restricted place, when Christ went to paradise, organized His ministers and sent them to preach the gospel to these men and women. Look at verse 74, "**Who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it,**" in the spirit world. Ok, here's another group of terrestrial people. So let's talk about that for just a minute. We'll just glance over that. If a person in this life has, and here's the word the Brethren use, a reasonable opportunity to accept the gospel. I would assume that that's been interpreted as they felt the spirit and the Holy Ghost bore testimony to them that the message they were hearing that was true but they reject it. They die without having made covenants or accepting that message. They had an opportunity and reject it and go into the spirit world and accept the gospel there. They are inheritors of the terrestrial world but not the celestial.

Student: Yeah, So they had an opportunity here but accepted it there in the spiritual world, so are not ready for celestial glory. Is that what you're saying?

Mike: If you reject the gospel here and accept it afterwards in the spirit world, your place of habitation is a terrestrial order. These are people who accept the gospel in the spirit world, but heard it in life and rejected it. Now that can't be, you have to have some stipulations, there of course. The Lord is gonna judge the person whether they had a reasonable opportunity. See, that's the word there. I mean we can't say the missionaries had a bad day, or this person slammed the door, or that was their chance, I mean you know that doesn't fit. So there has to be a reasonable opportunity. There has to be some discussion. I believe there has to be a witness of the Holy Ghost born to those people where they know that it's true and then the cares of the world; remember the parable of the Sower. The cares of the world choke them out and they just can't make the decision. But they die and accept it in the spirit world, a terrestrial order. They belong in this group.

Verse 75. "***These are they who are honorable men (women) of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men.***" The key word there is honorable. So a minimum requirement of being terrestrial then is being honorable. Can I just tell you right now that no covenants, no ordinances are required for the terrestrial world.

Student: For the terrestrial world?

Mike: That's correct. All of the ordinances, all of the covenants that you and I participate in are design only for the celestial world. There are no covenants or ordinances required for the terrestrial or the telestial world. Everything we do in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is, now taking this a step further, everything we do in the church is designed to move the people, not to a telestial, not to a terrestrial, but to a celestial world. But, you can't make the leap from the terrestrial to a celestial, even though everything is designed to get you there. You have to go in increments, climbing the ladder Joseph talked about, starting with the first rung and proceeding on, here a little there a little, precept upon precept, line upon line. See that's how that goes. Another minimum requirement on this is and you read this by reading who the telestial people are, and the telestial people are...their main sin in the telestial world is sexual immorality. Now look around us. We're in the telestial world. Can you see that as a fact? Is sexual immorality a problem in the world? Is it a problem in the church? It is a problem in the telestial world, so in order for you to go to the terrestrial world, you have to be honorable and you need to be morally clean. That's your minimum requirements right there.

Student: Can you explain why there are so many "are"s in the verses before, and then they go to "shall"s? Why are the "are"s and the "shall"s so important?

Mike: Well, your "are"s are in the present and your "shall"s are in the future. So what it is describing is these people here in the terrestrial world and what we are seeing over and over are, who are, who are, who are, who are, etc. etc. When you get into the celestial world you are going to see a whole list of "are"s followed by a whole list of "shall"s. But we'll talk about that another time.

You don't have to be a Mormon, brothers and sisters, to repent and obtain the forgiveness of sins. To obtain a *remission* of sins you need to enter into a covenant. To obtain a forgiveness of sins, that's available to every man and woman who come unto Christ and repent and call upon his name can be forgiven of his sins. Margie and I attended the Assembly of

God church today. We went down to our friend who is a pastor speaking there and we spent two hours with those folks today. There's no question in my mind as I listened to the sermons of those people who praise the Lord and talked about their experiences coming from the sinful past to a delivered presence. There is no question in my mind that they have been forgiven of their sins. No question. Because the spirit bore testimony to me about that.

So if a person is not a member of the church and has committed adultery, you don't have to be a Mormon to know that adultery is wrong. It's the 7th commandment of the Ten Commandments. You don't have to be a Mormon to love Christ and call his name and be taught by the Spirit how to repent and receive the forgiveness of their sins. If you have committed adultery or fornication or any sexual immorality you need to repent of that and be forgiven of it in order to qualify for a terrestrial world. It's not limited to members of this church. Now we won't go into it tonight, but a remission of sins is something different. A remission of sins can only come as a result of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Remission is not only forgiveness but a healing experience where not only are the sins forgiven but all of the effects of them are removed. That's another lesson. We won't go into that tonight but suffice it to say, that you must be morally clean and honorable in order to enter the terrestrial world. Which means then, that there will be millions of people in the terrestrial millennial third estate who are not members of the church. And there will be millions of members of the church who will not be there. Where much is given much is required. He who sins against greater light receives the greater condemnation.

Now let's go back to section 76 again verse 76 says, "***There are those who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness.***" Those who enjoy the fullness of Christ will have to inherit what glory, terrestrial? Christ sits on the right hand of the Father in glory. So if you want to have the fullness of Christ's glory where are you going to have to be?

Student: Celestial?

Mike: Yes, in the celestial world. These are they who receive of the presence of the son but not the fullness of the Father. Christ ministers to the terrestrial world. Those of you who go to the temple, go to the third booth in the temple. There are four booths. When you enter the third booth you are entering the Millennial Terrestrial World. It is a fire based world. The second booth is the telestial mortality world. The world we're in. It is a water based world. The person who officiates in the third booth is the Lord Jesus Christ. The temple worker who is in the third booth represents the Savior who ministers in the terrestrial millennial third estate. The fourth booth is the celestial world and that booth has a person in it and that person represents the Holy Father. Now with that in mind, thinking of these four booths, representing the four estates of our movement back to Heavenly Father, step by step, you now know that the person in the fourth booth is the Father. The person in the third booth is the son. The person in the second booth, the telestial world, represents the Holy Ghost and the first booth is your premortal life. Most people think there are only three booths and that the first one you go into is a waiting room. It's not a waiting room. You pass through a veil to get to that first booth. You are in an estate and that estate you are in, that first booth, represents your first estate which is the premortal life where your spirit, organized spirit, died and you pass through that second veil, that is the veil of the world and you are entering the telestial world. And it's water based. Anyway, there's some fun things to think about there.

The terrestrial world to come in the Millennium is not the Terrestrial Kingdom. It's the terrestrial world. Let me give you a little history. In the temple it talks about creating earths and organizing worlds. There's a difference between an earth and a world. In Matthew chapter 24 and also in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 45, disciples came to Christ as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, and they said, "Master tell us concerning thy second coming and the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked." Now they talked about the word world, not meaning a planet, but world meaning a population or group of people. The destruction of the world is clear in these verses that represent the destruction of the wicked, or the burning off of telestial persons at the Second Coming of Christ. So that's an interesting little thing to think

about there right now. We talked about populations and we talked about earths and planets. Maybe they are different things. The terrestrial world is the phase that this earth is going through that we call the Thousand Year Millennium. That's the terrestrial world. At some future time they will need to be a planet organized, placed in a terrestrial order, so that resurrected terrestrial beings can reside on that world. That's called the Terrestrial Kingdom. The terrestrial world is a phase of this earth's progression because we know the destiny of this world. This earth that we're on right now, Mother Earth's destiny is not to be a Terrestrial Kingdom, but its destiny is to be crowned and become a Celestial Kingdom. So right now it's a celestial world getting ready to move into a terrestrial world and eventually will be crowned to become the Celestial Kingdom. Then the Celestial Kingdom and the Terrestrial Kingdom will have the organized planets separate from this world that we're on right now. Do you understand what I'm saying? Separate from it and placed in a celestial or terrestrial order so the resurrected beings of that order can inhabit that kingdom. And they are Kingdoms because they are presided over by kings.

Student: So what I'm understanding you say then, when the judgment comes and we are given the kingdom that we are prepared for... for instance, let's say I am to go to the Terrestrial Kingdom. Is there hope for me after that? Or is that just my eternity?

Mike: That was a great question. To quote a scripture in section 76 and go with me over to section 76. They, meaning the authorities of the church, quote section 76 verse 112. And it talks about the people in these various places. It says verse 112, oh, let's go to verse 111, ***"For they shall be judged according to their works, and every man shall receive according to his own works, his own dominion, in the mansions which are prepared;"*** (semi colon, now we don't pay enough attention to these semi colons.) 112: ***"And they (those who are in these mansions) shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end."*** Now we quote that scripture to show that once you resurrect and inherit a kingdom of glory/life whether it's celestial or terrestrial, that you can progress within that kingdom, right? But you can't go from kingdom to kingdom. Isn't that what we teach? Let me read to you here, and I will put this up on my handouts for you, but I was going to read a couple of things here for you. This is by Hyrum Smith. Hyrum Smith assistant President of the church, patriarch, member of the quorum of the twelve, said this. Hyrum Smith said on August 1st 1843, "Those of the terrestrial glory either advance to the celestial or recede to the celestial, else the moon could not be a type, a symbol. For the moon waxes and wanes." Those are the words we use to describe the wind. So he said that you either progress forward from the terrestrial or recede back. Now the only place, brothers and sisters... now this is interesting here. I've got a dozen quotes here I'll just put up for you. The interesting thing is that it does not talk about progressing from the celestial up. Let me give you one more here. This is by Franklin D. Richards, member of the quorum of the twelve. This is May 17, 1884. This is the end of the quote, "Thus the people of God will go forward they will go forward like unto the new moon increasing in knowledge and brightness and glory until they come to a fullness of celestial glory." Interesting quotes. B H Roberts, he took that verse in section 76: verse 112 where it says, ***"where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end."*** B H Roberts said this, "that if it be granted that such a thing is possible," in other words progression from kingdoms, *"they who are first entered into the celestial glory, having before them the privilege also of eternal progress, have been moving onward so that the relative distance between them and those who have fought their way up from lesser glories, may be as great when the latter, those who are coming up degrees in celestial glory, in which the righteous at first stood. Those whose faith and works are such only as to enable them to inherit the celestial glory, may arrive at last where those whose works in this life were such as to enable them for entrance into the celestial glory. They may arrive where these were but never where they are."* Isn't that an interesting thing there!

Student: All right. So what I understand this to say then, we may move up from kingdom to kingdom but for instance, if my mother, father, brothers, sisters... if they were in the Celestial Kingdom, I could come up to that kingdom, but would never be with them? Is that what you're saying?

Mike: If they continue to move, if everybody's moving wherever you are and wherever they are, they're progressing. What he's saying is that where you are you can be where they were, but not where they are. So where it says, "Where Christ and God are they cannot come worlds without end," well that's meaning you can't be where they are but you can be where they've been. That's what these guys were teaching. Another thing is section 76. It talks about those of the celestial world minister to those in the terrestrial world. This is section 76 verses 86-89: Those in the terrestrial world minister to those in the celestial world. Those in higher worlds have an assignment as messengers to administer to those in lower worlds. My question is to what end are we administering to them for if it's not to allow them to progress and to come up. What's the purpose of going down. It doesn't make sense to me. What are you doing just to going down to visit and saying, "how's the weather today in the telestial world?"

Student: But here's my question, Mike. If your brother... my brother is in the Celestial Kingdom, we're in the Terrestrial and we move ourselves up to the Celestial, wouldn't we be with them? Why wouldn't we be with them if we have that same glory? Did I make that clear?

Mike: Well, to answer your question let me read you one last statement by the First Presidency. The First Presidency said this; this is the secretary to the First Presidency in a letter in 1952 and again in 1965. "The Brethren direct me to say the church has never announced a definite doctrine upon this point. Some of the brethren have held the view that it was possible, in the course of progression, to advance from one glory to another, invoking the principle of eternal progression. Others of the brethren have taken the opposite view, but as stated the church has never announced a definite doctrine on this point." So, brothers and sisters, what it boils down to is that the Lord has given us a thumbnail in section 76 that has on purpose withheld details. Now these details are what we call the Mysteries of Godliness and they are to be revealed to the saints. We can know the answers to all of this. There's not a question that we have on any of this that you can't know the answer to, but you have to take it to God in prayer and obtain divine revelation concerning it. Now once you are told that, you may also find yourself under a restraint to not move it forward. Brigham Young said that when you have revealed to you, something that's true that has not been canonized by the church, you put it on the shelf and hold that and not publicly teach that until the church makes it public. The point is however, that the Lord can and will reveal to us things that have not revealed and are publicly taught by the church. In fact He encourages us to go after these things. And then when you obtain these pearls, if you are close enough to the Spirit, the Lord will direct you, if and when and to whom you are to share these pearls with. Does that make sense?

Student: Yeah, thanks very much.

Mike: This week when I was pondering this I read a scripture in Matthew chapter 25. Let me show you what the Spirit taught me. I just rejoiced in this. It was so fun. I had been pondering the terrestrial world. Matthew chapter 25: This is the famous one you know, "***In as much as you've done it unto the least of these you've done it unto me.***" Right? It also has the parable of the Talents. Now I want you to go to Matthew 25 and as he comes back he receives an accounting of the people. I'd like to go to verse 21 and verse 23. The servant who had doubled their talents, the Lord said, "***His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.***" The thought that I had on that was that it's in the telestial world where we are given the opportunity to be faithful over a few things. You in the telestial world who go to receive our endowments are anointed to become kings and queens, priests and priestesses to rule and reign in the House of Israel. We have to be anointed to do that. Now because you've been anointed to do that doesn't mean that you are a king or a queen, a priest or a priestess. You have simply been anointed to become such. This verse right here where you are faithful over a few thing is your responsibility in the telestial world. If you pass that and the Lord says, "well done my good and faithful servant," in the terrestrial millennial world you will hear Him say, "I will make you ruler over many things. Enter unto the joy of the Lord." I believe that verse 21 and 23 that's talking about the sequence of moving from telestial mortal to terrestrial translated. In the first place, you don't automatically rule over kingdoms. You

don't automatically become king and queen. Every king or queen before they obtained that, was a prince or a princess. Princes and princesses don't rule over kingdoms. They rule over something called principalities. Principalities which is an apprentice kingdom. It's a smaller dominion. It's where you're learning how to become a king and a queen while you're still a prince or a princess. And it's my feeling that that takes place in the terrestrial millennial world. That's where we're going to start to rule and reign.

Student: Wow!

Mike: And if you prove faithful to the principality and dominion that you're given, the beginning of your kingly reigning, if you prove faithful, then you can advance to a higher a kingdom now where you are now a king and a queen where you can now rule over those who worship you and look to you for salvation, redemption, and exaltation.

Now we're out of time but I wanted to share with you what the main purpose of the Millennial Terrestrial World is. We teach in the church that the main purpose is missionary work and work for the dead. And those are definitely millennial works, they are definitely. I would like to present to you and we'll deal with it a little bit further next week. But the main purpose of the Terrestrial Millennial World is to beget life. And the other thing I want to share with you to think about is the Millennial World you're in at the presence of God, so the third estate is an unveiled estate and yet it is probationary. Meaning wherever you have probationary then there is the possibility of falling and failing. We know, brothers and sisters, we know that the Millennial World is probationary because we know that the end of that Millennial World that's Satan's loosed, there is a huge battle, and many fall. And that by definition is probationary world.

I want to talk to you next week about beginning life in the Terrestrial Millennial World. I want to talk to you about what is the sin at the end of the millennium that causes Lucifer to be loosed and many fall from grace. What is the sin? What happens there? How can that be when the majority in the Millennium they grow up without sin unto salvation, Satan has no power, and God wipes away all tears. What happens at the end of that millennium to change that glorious state? Those are the things we want to talk about next week. Is that Ok?

So ponder some of those things when you go to the temple the next time and you go to the temple and you participate in initiatories, or for that matter, in the endowment and you move from the telestial to the terrestrial. I want you to think about that, moving from booth two to booth three. It's the same as moving from the telestial room to the terrestrial room in the endowment ceremony. Ponder these things. Think about the persons who officiate in those rooms and the things we talked about. See if the Spirit will teach you something. It's a fun time to go to the temple and participate in that sacred ordinance.