

Beginning, "Before the foundation of the world" LeGrand Baker

A personal note: the things I learned, or think I learned, from the scriptures I quote below are things I would never write about in a way that is straightforward and easy to understand, but, nonetheless, they are things I would like to show you. So rather than my attempting to write about them, I have simply arranged the scriptures in an order that I think tells the story - the arrangement is the commentary - and because I love you, (with the exception of 3 or 4 necessary notes) that's all the commentary you get! So read these scriptures as a story, and as you do, you decide if you think the story is anything like truth.

My love always,
LeGrand

Mosiah 15:19

19 For were it not for the redemption which he hath made for his people, which was repared from the foundation of the world, I say unto you, were it not for this, all mankind must have perished.

It is usually the depth Abinadi's understanding that causes us to revere him as a great prophet, but in this week's verses, it is the breadth of his understanding that seems to me to be so remarkable. As I mentioned above, verses 24-25 suggest he understood the infinite and universal application of the Saviour's atonement, including the principle of salvation for the dead. But just before he said that, in verse 19, he showed that his understanding also went back to the very beginnings of our beginnings.

I do not believe that all of the scriptures can be read like they were a precisely worded Supreme Court decision. The Bible can in some places, but not in others, depending on how the translators chose to represent the meanings. However, I do believe the Book of Mormon, and the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price are worded with great precision, and that the two criteria requisite to knowing what they say are: 1) to have enough experience and background (such as understanding temple ordinances) so that one can know what scriptures are talking about, and 2) to try to read the words as carefully, and understand them as precisely as the authors understood and wrote them. So when I read, "For were it not for the redemption which he hath made for his people, which [redemption] was PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD," I ask myself, "What does that actually say?" - and I found that the more closely I looked at the words and the structure of the sentence, the more questions I had.

I decided that the first step in finding those answers should be to discover how, and in what contexts, the other scriptures use the phrase "from the foundation of the world." What I found surprised me. For one thing, I learned that a similar phrase "prepared from the foundation of the earth" is never used in the scriptures. There is a phrase like it, but it almost always reads "layeth" or "laid the foundation of the earth," and in every instance is a clear reference to the creation of the earth we live on. {Those scriptures are: Hebrews 1:10; Psalms 102:25; Zechariah 12:1-3; 1 Nephi 20:13; D&C 45:1.}

On the other hand, the phrase "the foundation of the world" is frequently used, and seems to

refer to something other than the creation story, so I wondered if the word “world” might have a different referent from this “earth” we live on. It seemed that “world” might refer to the entire system or “age” of which this earth is a part. This is what I found.

(I should point out that I am not suggesting that every time the word “world” is used in the scriptures it is intended to stretch one’s mind back to the beginnings of eternity. It clearly does not. For example, in 2 Nephi 9: 18, “...they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of god, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever,” the words “world” clearly have references to two different times and places, and therefore the word itself has two different meanings.)

The phrase, “foundation of the world,” as it is found in the scriptures, readily falls into two surprisingly consistent categories. One is “from BEFORE the foundation of the world”; and the other is “from [presumably meaning “after”] the foundation of the world.” So it appears to me that “the foundation of the world” is the name of a pivotal time or event (like “the meridian of time” is the name of another pivotal time and event), but that this one happened eons ago, and that it apparently preceded the Council in Heaven by a very, very long time. I don’t pretend to know where or when that was, so let me just show you the scriptures.

Here is a list of the scriptures I will quote below:

Things that happened “from before the foundation of the world.”

- 1 Christ was chosen and ordained - D&C 93; 1John 17; 1 Peter 1; Moses 5
- 2 Abraham sought the blessings of “the fathers” - 3Abraham 1; D&C 132
- 4 Melchizedek received priesthood powers - JST Gen 14
- 5 Joseph Smith was chosen - D&C 127
- 6 Law was established - D&C 132
- 7 Promises were made - D&C 132
- 8 Ordinances were established - D&C 128
- 9 Temples for ordinances - D&C 124
- 10 Sacred things were kept hid - D&C 124
- 11 Paul also says God “hath chosen us.” - Ephesians 1

Things that happened “from the foundation of the world”

- 1 . The ordinations and callings described in Alma 13
- 2 . The vision seen by the Brother of Jared is about - 2 Nephi 27; JST Isaiah 29
- 3 . Way for all men was prepared - 1 Nephi 10
- 4 . Eternal purposes of God were set forth - Alma 42
- 5 . Christ did the following:
 - 5a . Redemption prepared - Ether 3; Heleman ; Mosiah 15; Alma 12; 18; 22
 - 5b . Atonement prepared - Mosiah 4

- 5c . Lamb slain - Revelation 13; 17; Moses 7; JeST Gen 7
- 5d . Works finished - Hebrews 4
- 5e . Fulfill all - 3 Nephi 1
- 5f . About little children - Moroni 8; D&C 29; Moses 6
- 6 . Decrees were made - Moses 6; JST Gen 6
- 7 . Blood of prophets shed - Luke 11
- 8 . Blessings hid from some - Ether 4; D&C 128; D&C 35; Matt 13
- 9 . Kingdom established - Ether 4
- 10 . Kingdom prepared for “them” - Matthew 25; 2 Nephi 9

Before we continue, I should point out that there are a number of scriptures quoted below that might be read to suggest the Saviour performed more than one atoning sacrifice. To avoid that question, I think it would be well to begin this discussion with Paul’s assurance that there was only one atoning sacrifice performed by the Saviour, and that was when he was in a physical body, living on this earth.

(Hebrews 9:24-28.)

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 FOR THEN MUST HE OFTEN HAVE SUFFERED SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD: but NOW ONCE IN THE END OF THE WORLD hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

If, as Paul insists, the Saviour did not “often have suffered since the foundation of the world,” then the scriptures below which suggest the atonement was “prepared from the foundation of the world,” must be read to mean that, not only were the plans for the atonement firmly established, but also that the Saviour’s love for his children manifested itself long before the atoning sacrifice actually occurred on this earth.

The references I give below often include the context of the scripture I quote.

THINGS THAT HAPPENED “BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD”

D&C 93:6-10.

6 And John saw and bore record of the fulness of my glory, and the fulness of John's record is hereafter to be revealed.

7 And he bore record, saying: I saw his glory, THAT HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING, BEFORE THE WORLD WAS;

8 Therefore, in the beginning the Word was, for he was the Word, even the messenger of salvation—

9 The light and the Redeemer of the world; the Spirit of truth, who came into the world, because the world was made by him, and in him was the life of men and the light of men.

10 The worlds were made by him; men were made by him; all things were made by him, and through him, and of him.

[If those verses were intended to be read as a sequence of events, then that is a very interesting sequence.]

(John 17:1-26.)

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self WITH THE GLORY WHICH I HAD WITH THEE BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

.....
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: FOR THOU LOVEDST ME BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

(1 Peter 1:18-25.)

20 Who verily was FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, but was manifest in these last times for you,

(Moses 5:54-59.)

57 For they would not hearken unto his voice, nor believe on his Only Begotten Son, even him whom he declared should come in the meridian of time, who was PREPARED FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

(Abraham 1:1-4.)

[These verses are remarkable because they are written after the pattern of the cosmic myth. “Myth” does not mean something that is false, it means a truth described in a way that may or may not be historically correct. A myth is “truth” even if it is not “historically true.” The story of the myth is always the same as each of our eternal autobiographies – that is why the story is so universally appealing, and why it is found in every culture in the world. The story is always the same: The hero leaves home, then, after much struggle returns home again, or else he achieves some other great quest. Often that quest is to overcome death, as in the story of Osiris, and as is implied in the Hymn of the Pearl, and Hamlet (where everybody dies, but they all go to heaven

except for the bad king). The story of Job is an example of a myth that is “truth” whether it is “historically true” or not. Sometimes the object of the hero is to arrive at a seemingly impossible destination. First Nephi is an excellent example of that pattern. The story told in the temple is a classic example of the cosmic myth - with each man or woman in the audience being the hero or heroine of the story.

[These verses that introduce the Book of Abraham follow that same pattern. He leaves home, then tells of his struggles to achieve a purpose. The extraordinary thing about his story is that it does not begin at the beginning of time (as others, like Job and the Hymn of the Pearl, do), rather, Abraham’s story ends at the beginning of time, when he receives the desired priesthood powers and blessings “from the fathers” - “it came down from the fathers, from the beginning of time.” So, it appears, the struggle he describes actually predates “the beginning of time.”]

1 In the land of the Chaldeans, at the residence of my fathers, I, Abraham, saw that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence;

2 And, finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers.

3 It was conferred upon me from the fathers; it came down from the fathers, from the beginning of time, yea, even from the beginning, or BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, down to the present time, even the right of the firstborn, or the first man, who is Adam, or first father, through the fathers unto me.

4 I sought for mine appointment unto the Priesthood according to the appointment of God unto the fathers concerning the seed.

(D&C 132: 28-30.)

28 I am the Lord thy God, and will give unto thee the LAW OF MY HOLY PRIESTHOOD, AS WAS ORDAINED BY ME AND MY FATHER BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.

29 Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne.

30 Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to

count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.

(JST Genesis 14.)

25 And Melchizedek lifted up his voice and blessed Abram.

26 Now Melchizedek was a man of faith, who wrought righteousness; and when a child he feared God, and stopped the mouths of lions, and quenched the violence of fire.

27 And thus, having been approved of God, he was ordained an high priest after the order of the covenant which God made with Enoch,

28 It being after the order of the son of God; which order came, not by man, nor the will of man; neither by father nor mother; neither by beginning of days nor end of years; but of God;

29 And it was delivered unto men by the calling of his own voice, according to his own will, unto as many as believed on his name.

30 For God having sworn unto Enoch and unto his seed with an oath by himself; that every one being ordained after this order and calling should have power, by faith, to break mountains, to divide the seas, to dry up waters, to turn them out of their course;

31 To put at defiance the armies of nations, to divide the earth, to break every band, to stand in the presence of God; to do all things according to his will, according to his command, subdue principalities and powers; and this by the will of the Son of God WHICH WAS FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

(Doctrine and Covenants 127:1-3.)

[This is the Prophet Joseph writing about himself.]

2 And as for the perils which I am called to pass through, they seem but a small thing to me, as the envy and wrath of man have been my common lot all the days of my life; and for what cause it seems mysterious, UNLESS I WAS ORDAINED FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD for some good end, or bad, as you may choose to call it. Judge ye for yourselves. God knoweth all these things, whether it be good or bad. . . .

(Doctrine and Covenants 132:1-66.)

This is one the most seriously misunderstood passages of scripture I know about - and the

misunderstanding has become the rationale behind a lot of fundamentalist offshoots from the church. The problem arises from the wording in section 131

- 1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;
- 2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];
- 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.
- 4 He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.

And from the wording in section 132:

- 4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

The apostates insist in putting those verses together and teach that polygamy is what is meant by the latter. That, of course is not true. “The new and everlasting covenant” is a very broad category of which, “new and everlasting covenant of marriage” is a subset. D&C 132:4 is talking about the overriding covenant, while D&C 131:2 is only talking about a specific part of that covenant. The problem is compounded by the fact that after verse 15, D&C 132 does discuss eternal marriage, so it is easy to superimpose that discussion onto the meaning of v. 4.

D&C 22 also refers to baptism as another subset of the new and everlasting covenant. An excellent discussion of the meaning of the phrase is found in Joseph Fielding Smith, "What is meant by the new and everlasting covenant? Does it mean temple marriage and sealing?" *Answers to Gospel Questions*, 5 vols. (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957-1966), 1: 63.

The first 14 verses of section 132 discuss the entire concept of the new and everlasting covenant. Then verse 15 begins, “Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, “Therefore” is the key word. “Therefore” is the conjunction that separates the introduction, which is about the eternal significance of the “new and everlasting covenant,” from the body of the revelation which is a discussion about “the new and everlasting covenant of marriage.”

I would like to go through those first 14 verses because their message is central to my subject of what occurred “from before the foundation of the world.”

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—

2 Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter.

[What matter? The off-the-top of the head answer would be, “having more than one wife.” But

that is not correct. The “matter” the Lord is about to explain is “wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants.” So the Lord is going to lay the foundation for that justification, then in verse 15 he begins to apply those principles to the question of plural marriage. He does not address the question of plural marriage until verse 15. So lets look at the justification:]

3 Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same.

4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant [not the subset “of marriage” but the entire covenant. It is new because it is revealed anew. It is everlasting because the covenant was made before this life and continues after this life. This covenant is so important that:] and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

5 For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were INSTITUTED FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

6 And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

7 And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds ... that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed ... are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

8 Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.

9 Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

10 Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed [to you by covenant]?

11 And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be BY LAW, EVEN AS I AND MY FATHER ORDAINED UNTO YOU, BEFORE THE WORLD WAS?

12 I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment—that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.

13 And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

14 For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

15 Therefore

(Doctrine and Covenants 128:1-19.)

5 You may think this order of things to be very particular; but let me tell you that it is only to answer the will of God, **BY CONFORMING TO THE ORDINANCE AND PREPARATION THAT THE LORD ORDAINED AND PREPARED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, for the salvation of the dead who should die without a knowledge of the gospel.

....

8 Now, the nature of this ordinance consists in the power of the priesthood, by the revelation of Jesus Christ, wherein it is granted that whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Or, in other words, taking a different view of the translation, whatsoever you record on earth shall be recorded in heaven, and whatsoever you do not record on earth shall not be recorded in heaven; for out of the books shall your dead be judged, according to their own works, whether they themselves have attended to the ordinances in their own propria persona, or by the means of their own agents, **ACCORDING TO THE ORDINANCE WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THEIR SALVATION FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, according to the records which they have kept concerning their dead.

(Doctrine and Covenants 124:29-45.)

29 For a baptismal font there is not upon the earth, that they, my saints, may be baptized for those who are dead—

30 For this ordinance belongeth to my house, and cannot be acceptable to me, only in the days of your poverty, wherein ye are not able to build a house unto me.

31 But I command you, all ye my saints, to build a house unto me; and I grant unto you a sufficient time to build a house unto me; and during this time your baptisms shall be acceptable unto me.

32 But behold, at the end of this appointment your baptisms for your dead shall not be acceptable unto me; and if you do not these things at the end of the appointment ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God.

33 For verily I say unto you, that after you have had sufficient time to build a house to me, wherein the ordinance of baptizing for the dead belongeth, and for which the same was **INSTITUTED FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, your baptisms for your dead cannot be acceptable unto me;

34 For therein are the keys of the holy priesthood ordained, that you may receive honor and glory.

.....

40 And verily I say unto you, let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people;

41 For I deign to reveal unto my church things which have been KEPT HID FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times.

(Ephesians 1:1-14.)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as HE HATH CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, YE WERE SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE,

14 WHICH [sealing] IS THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

[An “earnest” is a legal contract or covenant that guarantees the future fulfillment of a larger, more inclusive, contract or covenant. Like the “earnest money” one gives when he makes a temporary contract that guarantees he may purchase a house at some future time. So the sealing, which Paul describes as the earnest we received before we came to this earth, was a guarantee that we would be received at “the redemption of the purchased possession.” The “purchased possession” is ourselves - and the redemption is our returning home - the conclusion of our own personal cosmic myth.]

THINGS THAT HAPPENED “FROM” THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

(Alma 13:1-10.)

1 And again, my brethren, I would cite your minds forward to the time when the Lord God gave these commandments unto his children; and I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, which was after the order of his Son, to teach these things unto the people.

2 And those priests were ordained after the order of his Son, in a manner that thereby the people might know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption.

3 And this is the manner after which they were ordained— BEING CALLED AND PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceedingly great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such.

4 And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.

5 Or in fine, in the first place they were on the same standing with their brethren; **THUS THIS HOLY CALLING BEING PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD** for such as would not harden their hearts, being in and through the atonement of the Only Begotten Son, who was prepared—

6 And thus being called by this holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest—

7 This high priesthood being after the order of his Son, WHICH ORDER WAS FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things—

8 Now they were ordained after this manner—being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end—

9 Thus they become high priests forever, after the order of the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, who is without beginning of days or end of years, who is full of grace, equity, and truth. And thus it is. Amen.

(2 Nephi 27:9-12.)

10 But the words which are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, THEY REVEAL ALL THINGS FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD unto the end thereof.

(JST Isaiah 29.)

slumbered.

12 And behold, the book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.

.....

15 For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD unto the end thereof.

(1 Nephi 10:17-22.)

17 And it came to pass after I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision, and also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God—and the Son of God was the

Messiah who should come—I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men.

18 For he is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; and the way is prepared for all men FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, if it so be that they repent and come unto him.

19 For he that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in these times as in times of old, and as well in times of old as in times to come; wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round.

(Alma 42:22-26.)

22 But there is a law given, and a punishment affixed, and a repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature and executeth the law, and the law inflicteth the punishment; if not so, the works of justice would be destroyed, and God would cease to be God.

23 But God ceaseth not to be God, and mercy claimeth the penitent, and mercy cometh because of the atonement; and the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead; and the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men into the presence of God; and thus they are restored into his presence, to be judged according to their works, according to the law and justice.

24 For behold, justice exerciseth all his demands, and also mercy claimeth all which is her own; and thus, none but the truly penitent are saved.

25 What, do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice? I say unto you, Nay; not one whit. If so, God would cease to be God.

26 And thus God bringeth about HIS GREAT AND ETERNAL PURPOSES, WHICH WERE PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. And thus cometh about the salvation and the redemption of men, and also their destruction and misery.

(Helaman 5:44-52.)

44 And Nephi and Lehi were in the midst of them; yea, they were encircled about; yea, they were as if in the midst of a flaming fire, yet it did harm them not, neither did it take hold upon the walls of the prison; and they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

45 And behold, the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire, and they could speak forth marvelous words.

46 And it came to pass that there came a voice unto them, yea, a pleasant voice, as if it were a whisper, saying:

47 Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my Well Beloved, who was FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

(Ether 3:12-15.)

12 And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie.

13 And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: Because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.

14 Behold, I AM HE WHO WAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have life, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.

15 And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.

(Mosiah 15:1-31.)

13 Yea, and are not the prophets, every one that has opened his mouth to prophesy, that has not fallen into transgression, I mean all the holy prophets ever since the world began? I say unto you that they are his seed.

14 And these are they who have published peace, who have brought good tidings of good, who have published salvation; and said unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!

15 And O how beautiful upon the mountains were their feet!

16 And again, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that are still publishing peace!

17 And again, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who shall hereafter publish peace, yea, from this time henceforth and forever!

18 And behold, I say unto you, this is not all. For O how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that is the founder of peace, yea, even the Lord, who has redeemed his people; yea, him who has granted salvation unto his people;

19 For were it not for the REDEMPTION WHICH HE HATH MADE FOR HIS PEOPLE, WHICH WAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, I say unto you, were it not for this, all mankind must have perished.

(Alma 12:24-37.)

24 And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent; therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead.

25 Now, if it had not been for the PLAN OF REDEMPTION, WHICH WAS LAID FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, there could have been no resurrection of the dead; but there was a plan of redemption laid, which shall bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, of which has been spoken.

26 And now behold, if it were possible that our first parents could have gone forth and partaken of the tree of life they would have been forever miserable, having no preparatory state; and thus the plan of redemption would have been frustrated, and the word of God would have been void, taking none effect.

27 But behold, it was not so; but it was appointed unto men that they must die; and after death, they must come to judgment, even that same judgment of which we have spoken, which is the end.

28 And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them;

29 Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory.

30 And they began from that time forth to call on his name; therefore God conversed with men, and made known unto them the PLAN OF REDEMPTION, WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; and this he made known unto them according to their faith and repentance and their holy works.

31 Wherefore, he gave commandments unto men, they having first transgressed the first commandments as to things which were temporal, and becoming as Gods, knowing good from evil, placing themselves in a state to act, or being placed in a state to act according to their wills and pleasures, whether to do evil or to do good—

32 Therefore God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness; for on such the plan of redemption could have no power, for the works of justice could not be destroyed, according to the supreme goodness of God.

33 But God did call on men, in the name of his Son, (this being the plan of redemption which was laid) saying: If ye will repent and harden not your hearts, then will I have mercy upon you, through mine Only Begotten Son;

34 Therefore, whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine Only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest.

(Alma 18:31-43.)

39 But this is not all; for he expounded unto them the PLAN OF REDEMPTION, WHICH WAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; and he also made known unto them concerning the coming of Christ, and all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them.

Alma 22: 8-19

13 And Aaron did expound unto him the scriptures from the creation of Adam, laying the fall of man before him, and their carnal state and also THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION, WHICH WAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, through Christ, for all whosoever would believe on his name.

(Mosiah 18:11-15.)

13 And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he said: Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God, as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant to serve him until you are dead as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant unto you eternal life, THROUGH THE REDEMPTION OF CHRIST, WHOM HE HAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

14 And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water; and they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit.

(Mosiah 4:1-9.)

6 I say unto you, if ye have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long-suffering towards the children of men; and also, THE ATONEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life, I mean the life of the mortal body—

7 I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation, through THE ATONEMENT WHICH WAS PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD for all mankind, which ever were since the fall of Adam, or who are, or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world.

8 And this is the means whereby salvation cometh. And there is none other salvation save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved except the conditions which I have told you.

9 Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend.

(Revelation 13:5-10.)

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

(Revelation 17:6-11.)

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

(Moses 7:42-49.)

47 And behold, Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, even in the flesh; and his soul rejoiced, saying: The Righteous is lifted up, and THE LAMB IS SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; and through faith I am in the bosom of the Father, and behold, Zion is with me.

(JST Genesis 7:49-56.)

54 And, behold, Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of man, even in the flesh; and his soul rejoiced, saying, The righteous is lifted up; and THE LAMB IS SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; and through faith I am in the bosom of the Father; and behold, Zion is with me!

(Hebrews 4:1-9.)

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: ALTHOUGH THE WORKS WERE FINISHED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

(3 Nephi 1:12-16.)

14 Behold, I come unto my own, to fulfil ALL THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE KNOWN UNTO THE CHILDREN OF MEN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, and to do the will, both of the Father and of the Son—of the Father because of me, and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

(Moroni 8:5-15.)

12 But LITTLE CHILDREN ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST, EVEN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism!

(Doctrine and Covenants 29:43-50.)

46 But behold, I say unto you, that LITTLE CHILDREN ARE REDEEMED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD through mine Only Begotten;

(Moses 6:2-68.)

27 And he heard a voice from heaven, saying, Enoch, my son, prophesy unto this people, and say unto them, Repent, for thus saith the Lord, I am angry with this people, and my fierce anger is kindled against them; for their hearts have waxed hard, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes cannot see afar off.

28 And for these many generations, ever since the day that I created them, have they gone astray, and have denied me, and have sought their own counsels in the dark; and in their own abominations have they devised murder, and have not kept the commandments, which I gave unto their father, Adam.

29 Wherefore, they have foresworn themselves, and, by their oaths, they have brought upon themselves death; and a hell I have prepared for them, if they repent not;

30 And this is a DECREE, WHICH I HAVE SENT FORTH IN THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD, FROM MY OWN MOUTH, FROM THE FOUNDATION THEREOF, and by the mouths of my servants, thy fathers, have I decreed it, even as it shall be sent forth in the world, unto the ends thereof.

.....

53 And our father Adam spake unto the Lord, and said: Why is it that men must repent and be baptized in water? And the Lord said unto Adam: Behold I have forgiven thee thy transgression in the Garden of Eden.

54 Hence came the saying abroad among the people, that the Son of God hath atoned for original

guilt, wherein the sins of the parents cannot be answered upon the heads of THE CHILDREN, FOR THEY ARE WHOLE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

(Luke 11:47-54.)

49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

50 That THE BLOOD OF ALL THE PROPHETS, WHICH WAS SHED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, may be required of this generation;

51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

(Doctrine and Covenants 128:18.)

18 For we without them cannot be made perfect; neither can they without us be made perfect. Neither can they nor we be made perfect without those who have died in the gospel also; for it is necessary in the ushering in of the dispensation of the fulness of times, which dispensation is now beginning to usher in, that a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories should take place, and be revealed from the days of Adam even to the present time. And not only this, but those THINGS WHICH NEVER HAVE BEEN REVEALED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, but have been kept hid from the wise and prudent, shall be revealed unto babes and sucklings in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times.

(Doctrine and Covenants 35:16-23.)

17 And I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph; and in weakness have I blessed him;

18 And I have given unto him the keys of the mystery of those THINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN SEALED, EVEN THINGS WHICH WERE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD,

and the things which shall come from this time until the time of my coming, if he abide in me, and if not, another will I plant in his stead.

(Matthew 13:34-37.)

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which HAVE BEEN KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

(Ether 4:6-19.)

14 Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how GREAT THINGS THE FATHER HATH LAID UP FOR YOU, FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief.

15 Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous THINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN HID UP FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD from you—yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel.

....

19 And blessed is he that is found faithful unto my name at the last day, for he shall be lifted up to dwell in the KINGDOM PREPARED FOR HIM FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. And behold it is I that hath spoken it. Amen.

(2 Nephi 9: 1, 17-21)

1 And now, my beloved brethren, I have read these things that ye might know concerning the covenants of the Lord that he has covenanted with all the house of Israel—

....

17 O the greatness and the justice of our God! For he executeth all his words, and they have gone forth out of his mouth, and his law must be fulfilled.

18 But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD, WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR THEM FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, and their joy shall be full forever.

(Matthew 25:31-38.) (JST is the same)

31 ¶ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

(2 Nephi 9: 1, 17-21)

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covenants of the Lord that he has covenanted with all the house of Israel—

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