

The Covenant Breaker

Unconditional Love's Sinister Plan

Volume 2

Unconditional Love: A False God

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Table of Contents

Broad is the Way 4
Miserable Forever 5
The Father of All Lies 6
Strong Delusion and Outer Darkness 6
The Man of Sin Revealed..... 7
I Will Redeem Mankind..... 10
Observe All Things Whatsoever I Have Commanded You 11
A Space Granted, A Probationary State, A Time to Prepare to Meet God 12
The Abundant Life versus The Misery of All Mankind 12
Wherefore He Maketh War with the Saints of God..... 13
This is the Victory..... 14
Endnotes 15

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And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning; and he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor. But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever. Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan. Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. (Genesis 3:1-5 IV)

But every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall. (D&C 1:3e)

God is love.¹ Satan, therefore, wanting to ascend above God's throne² aspired to become a god with a love that would be even greater than God's love. Satan would become *unconditional love*.

This once glorious angel, originally named Lucifer,³ planned to *redeem* all people. None would be lost, he said. All would be brought back into the kingdom of heaven and, in return, he would receive God's honor.

With Satan, everyone would experience total acceptance in the kingdom independent of any and all things. His love would be broad and boundless, without restrictions or regulations, without terms or conditions. This meant that mankind would be saved irrespective of each one's individual disposition or choice (i.e. his plan would *destroy* the agency God gave mankind).

Would not all people love a god who loved them so *completely*, without reservation or limitations – or at least with a love that appeared to be so noble?

Broad is the Way

Initially, Lucifer, called a *son of the morning*, was a bearer of light. Since God is both light and love,⁴ Satan wanted to be like God by becoming *love* in addition to being a bearer of light. But to rise above God's throne he would have to become a god with a greater, even more *inclusive* and *encompassing* love – at least according to his own understanding and way of thinking – than the love held by God Himself.

In contrast to Satan's unconditional approach to redemption, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob loves us with a sacrificial and redeeming love⁵ that is consistent with both His justice and mercy.⁶ God's love is expressed through covenants which have terms and conditions, with associated blessings and cursings.⁷ Accordingly, our God is a God of order and ordinances, of statutes, laws, and commandments, including the two great commandments: to love God with our whole being and love our neighbors as ourselves.⁸

God's way is found in the New and Everlasting Covenant mediated⁹ by our Lord Jesus Christ – whom Satan despised because of His meek and lowly ways. This New Covenant, like the Old Covenant, is defined by blessings and cursings (“woes”).¹⁰

While there are consequences for breaking God's covenants and commandments,¹¹ this would not be the case with Satan. Satan's unconditional approach to redemption would have great breadth. Any and all paths would be considered equally valid for entering into the kingdom of heaven, irrespective of authorship or teachings – only so long as each way accommodated all other ways. Thus, there would be no limitations on how any given individual would be brought into the kingdom. All would experience acceptance and tolerance through a limitless number of unrestricted paths to heaven.

Unlike the narrow path of sacrifice Jesus Christ came to lead us in,¹² Satan's broad way¹³ of unconditional love would be open to all people independent of what they wished to believe or do. Never mind the warning that *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men; who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness*.¹⁴ Everyone would be *unconditionally* redeemed by Satan's unconditional love. There would be no need for the work of Jesus Christ's sacrificial redemption founded through His infinite atonement and resurrection from the dead.¹⁵ Unconditional love would save everyone by superseding, even suspending the wrath of God's justice.¹⁶ Thus, mercy would no longer be needed or appropriate as well if unconditional love were in force and reign over mankind.

An individual may be *punished* in this life for *crimes* committed against others or God, but there would be no sin that could affect a person's eternal status or standing with Satan acting as God; there would be nothing which could ever separate them from him. According to his plan, no one's *salvation* would ever be placed in jeopardy by anything they may think, say, or do.

Since his love would be all-inclusive, why would there be a need to address sin? As unconditional love, Satan would not be bound by God and His justice. If Satan could rise above God's throne of love by loving all mankind unconditionally, how could anyone be affected by guilt in God's presence? Would not this make any and all of God's judgments inconsequential? Would not the *wrath* of God's justice become mute forever? Or so Satan thought.

Satan had a problem in his thinking, however. He did not apparently appreciate the fact

that, because we were created in God's image, we would be forever miserable if we were to live contrary to God's ways and, thus, live outside His presence.¹⁷ He failed to keep in perspective that we were designed to worship God, the Almighty One who brought each and every one of us into existence according to His hope and will for us.¹⁸ Satan failed to fully consider that it is God who sustains and maintains our lives day by day and in all aspects of the same through the Word of His power.¹⁹ He failed to consider that how we respond, i.e. our receptiveness or rejection, to the way God regulates His kingdom must have eternal consequences.²⁰

Therefore, because Satan sought to take away the agency of mankind through unconditional means, ironically as it may seem, God made Satan an *instrument* or *agent* of our agency, a catalyzing force that compels us to exercise our agency each and every day.²¹ Satan now provides an opposing influence that ensures our agency will be maintained by being tested and proven.²²

Miserable Forever

Had we been brought back into God's presence by Satan's plan of unconditional love and redemption – without being given the opportunity to choose to be truly redeemed and born anew by God's Holy Spirit – we would have been forced to live forever with the guilt of having sinned against the only true and living God and His laws.²³ Apparently this truth was not pertinent or significant to Satan.

Satan's plan was flawed by his pride.²⁴ While it may have gratified some sense of fairness in him or his desire to set things aright for mankind, his plan would have caused all mankind to be consumed with eternal remorse by not providing them with a preparatory state, a time in which to prepare to meet the God who created them in His own image.²⁵

Specifically, Satan's plan would not have given mankind a space of time to repent of their sins and become reconciled to God's will.²⁶ As a result, his plan would have caused all men to become miserable forever.²⁷ And so, with what judgment he judged mankind to be worthy of receiving, Satan was judged,²⁸ and he was cast down to become miserable forever according to his own judgment.²⁹

In this fallen state of misery he is still seeking to rule over mankind to his own honor and glory – which is no glory. Now, however, he is purposefully attempting to make all mankind miserable even as he is miserable, i.e. to reside in the same state in which he has been consigned to dwell forever.³⁰

Tragically many people have been, are, and will be lost in Satan's broad way that leads to destruction, with its vain imaginations that range from shades of truth to full blown lies; all of which are spun by *the father of lies*.³¹ No matter what his victims may think, say, or do, all who pass in his broad way remain separated from the kingdom of the God of true love and light. Though they may be ever learning, they will never come to the knowledge of the truth – except, that is, they repent and believe the gospel of the kingdom of God.³²

They will remain forever separated from the God of pure and perfect love because they have strayed from His ordinances and broken His everlasting covenant.³³ They do not seek the Lord to establish His righteousness. They walk in their own ways, after the god of this world ...*whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall*.³⁴

The Father of All Lies

In consequence of their transgression against God and His plan of salvation, Satan and his angels were cast down among fallen mankind³⁵ where they have power given them to tempt everyone³⁶ with their pride-filled ways.³⁷ Satan, now as *the father of all lies*, leads everyone captive who will not listen to the voice of God, all those who love Satan more than God, all those who love darkness more than light.³⁸

*Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; **and he became Satan. Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.** (Genesis 3:4,5)*

In this fallen state, Satan's call to mankind is still in opposition to the call of the Good Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ.³⁹ Jesus, who is the only Way by whom we are to come unto our heavenly Father,⁴⁰ calls us to repent and believe the gospel, to live in the true light of God's Word.⁴¹ Satan, on the other hand, tempts us to enter into his lies and vanity, into darkness and deception, specifically into secret combinations to *get gain* and to obtain the vain things of this world.⁴²

These two ways are in direct opposition to each other.⁴³ Jesus' call is to enter at *the strait gate* into the way of eternal life.⁴⁴ Satan's call is to enter into eternal death, i.e. eternal separation from God, via the *broad road* which leads to destruction – by a way that seems right unto man but the ends thereof are death.⁴⁵

Repent, therefore, and enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be who go in thereat. (Matthew 7:22)

Strong Delusion and Outer Darkness

At issue is the truth, God's truth, which is His Word.⁴⁶ His Word is conveyed to us by His own voice and the voice of His messengers through the power of His Spirit.⁴⁷ But not all men will hear His voice.⁴⁸

And thus the works of darkness began to prevail among all the sons of men. And God cursed the earth with a sore curse, and was angry with the wicked, with all the sons of men whom he had made, 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. And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. And thus all things were confirmed unto Adam by an holy ordinance; and the gospel preached; and a decree sent forth that it should be in the world until the end thereof; and thus it was. Amen. (Genesis 5:42-45)

How does God deal with those who are not willing to abide in the truth by keeping the ev-

erlasting covenant, i.e. by embracing the truth and look upward?⁴⁹ God will choose their delusion; He will send them strong delusions and deceptions, e.g. lying spirits, so that they may believe a lie.⁵⁰ Why? They do not answer when He calls; they do not seek first God's kingdom and to establish His righteousness.⁵¹

I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear; but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not. (Isaiah 66:4)

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (II Thessalonians 2:11,12)

Why is God the One who sends strong delusions to those who choose not to abide in the truth? He, as God, is the One who sets the bounds of our habitation.⁵² Also, He passes judgments on all His creation, to maintain it and to perfect it.⁵³ But further, it is God who gives us the desires of our hearts.⁵⁴ People who love darkness more than light will readily receive delusions (i.e. anything outside the truth) over the truth.⁵⁵ The desire of their hearts is set on the vain things of this world that are outside the truth, i.e. vain imaginations.⁵⁶ Therefore, God has prepared a place for all those who love darkness more than light, for all those who love lies more than God's Word of Truth. The place is *outer darkness*, and it has been prepared for *as many as would not hearken unto my [God's] voice*.⁵⁷

And I say unto you that many shall come from the east, and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the wicked one shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 8:11,12)

The Man of Sin Revealed

The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that there would be a falling away in the church before the day of the Lord.

Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is god. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (II Thessalonians 2:3)

Who is *the man of sin* who sits in the temple of God? It is a fallen angel who is the *father of lies*,⁵⁸ the devil, a fallen angel⁵⁹ who is the founder and foundation⁶⁰ of the abominable church, *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth – which shall fall*.⁶¹

This fallen angel, created as a *covering cherub* and anointed by God, was adorned with every precious stone and equipped with marvelous musical instruments. But he was not content. Because of his *beauty* and *brightness*, his heart was *lifted up* with pride and his

wisdom⁶² became *corrupt*. In consequence of his transgression God cast him down to the earth by the power of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.⁶³

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering...the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou walkest up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned; therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuary by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. (Ezekiel 28:13-18; cf. John 8:44 & D&C 76:3i-m)

This once glorious angel, named *Lucifer*, called *a son of the morning*, had wanted to be exalted above the throne of God, to be *like the Most High*, to *sit also upon the mount of the congregation*.⁶⁴

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

So he devised a plan to achieve his vain ambitions. He would volunteer to be the redeemer of the world. But God rejected his plan because it would have destroyed the agency of man and robbed God of His honor.

*And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten,⁶⁵ is the same which was from the beginning; and he came before me, saying Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, **and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it**; wherefore, give me thine honor. But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever. Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down;⁶⁶ and he became Satan; yea even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. (Genesis 3:1-5)*

“*Surely I would do it*” (i.e. redeem mankind), he had said, without any conditions other than the condition that he receive God’s honor, which is God’s power.⁶⁷ His plan caused a *falling away*, first in heaven and then on earth.⁶⁸

And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God, who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the Only Begotten Son – whom the Father loved, and who was in the bosom of the Father – and was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son, and was called Perdition; for the heavens wept over him; he was Lucifer, a son of the morning. And we beheld, and lo, he is fallen! is fallen! even a son of the morning. (D&C 76:3i,j)

...for, behold, the devil was before Adam, for he rebelled against me, saying, give me thine honor, which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency; and they were thrust down, and thus became the devil and his angels; and behold, there is a place prepared for them from the beginning, which place is hell. (D&C 28:10a-c)

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he [God] hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)

Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God [the church],⁶⁹ showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (II Thessalonians 2:3-5)

God is love.⁷⁰ Therefore, Satan – wanting to be like God yet wanting to be exalted above God – would become *unconditional* love. Acting as if he were God, Satan would redeem all mankind without the constraints of the commandments and covenants of God. Would not this – not placing any terms or conditions on their redemption – cause people to love him more than God and thus exalt him above God? Would it not show that he *is God* and, thus, would it not exalt him *above all that is called God* and allow him to *sit also upon the mount of the congregation*,⁷¹ that is, to *sit in the temple of God*,⁷² which is the church?⁷³ According to his corrupted wisdom⁷⁴ this fallen cherub seemed to think that it would, that by *loving* everyone unconditionally – by not imposing any restrictions or proscriptions found in God’s commandments and covenants on their redemption⁷⁵ – all people would honor and praise him as God, even to placing him above God.

Satan’s corrupt plan still involves unconditional terms and, as such, it still violates God’s gift of agency. Specifically, it leads those who hearken to his counsels to break God’s everlasting covenant, which states that *when* men keep all God’s commandments, i.e. embrace the truth⁷⁶ and look upward,⁷⁷ Zion – the city of our God⁷⁸ – will come again upon the earth.⁷⁹ Consequently, God has caused the voice of warning to be lifted up in these last days, that all who will hear may hear, to turn sinners away from their sins and the associated wrath to come.

*Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people; for they have **strayed from mine ordinances**, and have **broken mine everlasting covenant**; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god,*

whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall. (D&C 1:3; cf. D&C 34 or 38)

If Satan had his way, none would have to embrace the truth and look up to be saved. The condition of keeping all the Lord's commandments would not need to be met by anyone. His unconditional love denies the need for *the voice of warning*, which states *that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people*. Unconditional love has no provision for such judgments.

Satan would have corrupted the kingdom by bringing everyone back into the kingdom of heaven, whether or not they were righteous. This would have left the kingdom filthy. God's kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.⁸⁰ But the kingdom of God is not filthy. Rather a place of filthiness is prepared for those who remain in unrighteousness.⁸¹

And I said unto them that our father also saw that the justices of God did also divide the wicked from the righteous...Wherefore, if they should die in their wickedness, they must be cast off also as to things which are spiritual, which are pertaining unto righteousness; wherefore, they must be brought to stand before God to be judged of their works; and if their works have been filthiness, they must needs be filthy; and if they be filthy, it must needs be that they cannot dwell in the kingdom of God, if so, the kingdom of God must be filthy also; but behold I say unto you, the kingdom of God is not filthy, and there cannot any unclear thing enter into the kingdom of God. Wherefore, there must needs be a place of filthiness prepared for that which is filthy; and there is a place prepared, yea, even that awful hell of which I have spoken, and the devil is the preparatory of it. (1 Nephi 4:48,53-60)⁸²

I Will Redeem Mankind

It is noteworthy that Satan said his plan would involve redemption, for he said, "*...I will redeem mankind.*"⁸³

It's not clear how Satan proposed to redeem mankind. Would it have involved the making of an atonement based on Cain's sacrifice which came of his own industry? Would he have given his life for the sheep as Jesus did?⁸⁴ No. Jesus alone is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep; Satan, the enemy, is merely a thief and murderer.⁸⁵

His idea of redemption, based on his corrupted (fallen) wisdom, would not have required nor allowed anyone to choose to be redeemed or not be redeemed, i.e. to choose between eternal life and eternal death. His redemption would have been automatic. It would have been all encompassing, being applied to everyone regardless of their own decisions or actions. It would have been *unconditional*. None could fall from it. All would be forever saved from the requirements of God's justice and *the wrath to come*, which is reserved for those who remain in unrighteousness.⁸⁶

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. (Alma 19:107)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men; who love not

the truth, but remain in unrighteousness. (Romans 1:18)

But such a plan, which would have robbed God of His justice by destroying His *work of justice*, denies *the conditions of repentance*.⁸⁷ Such a plan violates agency, God's gift to mankind to choose for themselves between the way of life and the way of death.

In contrast, the redemption made by Jesus Christ for all mankind met the demands of God's justice while administering mercy to all repentant souls.⁸⁸ It restored and ensures the continuance of man's agency, i.e. our ability to act for ourselves, to choose liberty and eternal life or captivity and death.

And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that He might redeem the children of men from the fall; and because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free forever, knowing good from evil, to act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. Wherefore, men are free, according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man; and they are free to choose liberty and eternal life through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil, for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. (II Nephi 1:116-121)

Thus, those who choose life are redeemed from the fall while those who reject God's mercy revealed in Jesus Christ become as if there had been no redemption made.⁸⁹

But remember that he that persists in his own carnal nature and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion against God, he remaineth in his fallen state and the devil hath all power over him; therefore, he is as though there was no redemption made, being an enemy to God; and also is the devil an enemy of God. (Mosiah 8:77,78)

Observe All Things Whatsoever I Have Commanded You

Our Lord's plan of redemption requires mankind to keep His commandments, beginning with the command to repent and be baptized.⁹⁰

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:17-19)

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned. (Mark 16:14,15)

Behold, I am the law and the light; Look unto me and endure to the end and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life. Behold, I have given unto you the commandments, Therefore, keep my commandments. (III Nephi 7:10,11)

Now this is the commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth and come unto Me and be baptized in My name that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before Me at that last day. Verily, verily I say unto you, this is My gospel. And ye

know the things that ye must do in My church, for the works which ye have seen Me do, that shall ye also do; for that which ye have seen Me do, even that shall ye do; Therefore, if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day. (III Nephi 12:33-35; cf. Moroni 8:29 & II Nephi 13:7-32)

Satan's plan of *unconditional* redemption, on the other hand, would have no commandments nor covenant terms and conditions or blessings and cursings affixed. All would be saved. None, irrespective of their own desires or choices or actions, would be left outside the kingdom of heaven.⁹¹

A Space Granted, A Probationary State, A Time to Prepare to Meet God

Our Lord's plan of redemption included a space of time – a probationary state – in which mankind is to prepare to meet God.⁹²

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. (Alma 9:40,41)⁹³

Satan's plan, on the other hand, would *not* have required a probationary state. Everyone would be brought back into the presence of God to partake of the tree of life without a space of time to repent and prepare to meet God. This would have resulted in all men being miserable forever, *having no preparatory state*.⁹⁴

*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. **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. (Alma 9:42-45)***

The Abundant Life versus The Misery of All Mankind

Our Lord said that He came that we might have life, and that we might have it *more abundantly*.⁹⁵

I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. (John 10:9-11)

Satan, on the other hand, did not propose to come to give anyone an abundant life. His sole motive was for his own glorification. His plan did not lift up anyone other than himself, not even God, for he said, "give me thing honor."⁹⁶ Consistent with his corrupt wisdom,⁹⁷ it was

not Satan's concern⁹⁸ whether or not the children of men would have been miserable as a result of his plan – not having a space of time to repent and prepare to meet God.⁹⁹ His eyes were on place and position, upon being praised and worshipped for what he planned to accomplish and be rewarded for. Therefore, this once bright and beautiful angel of God fell from heaven and became miserable forever.¹⁰⁰ Now, as the devil, he goes about throughout the earth plotting ways to ensure God's people are miserable even as he is miserable, i.e. to give everyone, not an abundant life, but a miserable life.

*And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angle of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; wherefore, he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God; **and because that he had fallen from heaven and had become miserable forever, and he sought also the misery of all mankind...*** (II Nephi 1:101-103)

Wherefore He Maketh War with the Saints of God

As the accuser of the brethren,¹⁰¹ Satan seeks our misery.¹⁰² Now, even though he has been cast down to the earth,¹⁰³ in effect, nothing has changed. Satan is still determined to be exalted by sitting in the throne of the Lamb.¹⁰⁴ Knowing *his time is short*, he works with *great wrath* toward showing himself that he is God and to bring mankind into the kingdom irrespective of their choices or actions.¹⁰⁵ To prove himself the victor, he fights aggressively to take God's kingdom by force and to conquer God's church.¹⁰⁶

*And this we saw also, and bear record, that an angel of God, who was in authority in the presence of God, who rebelled against the only begotten Son; whom the Father loved, and who was in the bosom of the Father; and was thrust down from the presence of God and the Son, and was called Perdition; for the heavens wept over him; he was Lucifer, a son of the morning. And we beheld and lo, he is fallen! is fallen! even a son of the morning. And while we were yet in the Spirit, the Lord commanded us that we should write the vision; for we beheld Satan, that old serpent, even the Devil, who rebelled against God, and sought to take the kingdom of God and his Christ; **wherefore he maketh war with the saints of God, and encompasses them around about.** And we saw a vision of the **sufferings** of those with whom he made war and overcame, for thus came the voice of the Lord unto us. (D&C 76:3i-m)*

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (II Timothy 3:12)

Notwithstanding the war Satan wages against the members of the body of Christ, God preserves those who fear Him and are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb through faith on His name.¹⁰⁷

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Oh fear the Lord, ye his saints; for there is no want to them that fear him. (Psalm 34:7-9; cf. Revelation 2:7)

For they have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; for they loved not their own lives, but kept the testimony even unto death. Therefore, rejoice O heavens, and ye that dwell in them. (Revelation 12:11)

This is the Victory

How, then, may we overcome *the accuser of the brethren*? We must overcome him through taking upon ourselves the full the armor of God,¹⁰⁸ especially the shield of faith by which we may quench all the fiery darts of the devil. For as it is written,

... *this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.* (1 John 5:4)

If we have faith, we hope for things which are true,¹⁰⁹ meaning the truth, more specifically God's word, by which we may forsake that evil one, the father of all lies.

The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth; and light and truth forsaketh that evil. (D&C 90:6a)

More completely stated, we must receive the love of the truth in order to be saved.¹¹⁰ That is, we must receive the words of Christ. Remember, Jesus said if we keep His words, then, when the storms blow against us our house it will not be destroyed, but will stand sure upon a foundation that cannot fail.¹¹¹

*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, that the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is to bring Christ down from above;) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; **that is, the word of faith**, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?¹¹² And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** (Romans 10:4-16)*

Therefore, by feasting upon the words of Christ,¹¹³ i.e. by feasting upon Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God,¹¹⁴ we can know the truth and the truth will set us free.¹¹⁵

Come, then, and embrace the truth, even Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Look upward for the wisdom which is from above, not beneath.¹¹⁶ Place your hope and trust in Jesus, and He will give you another Comforter who will lead you into all truth.¹¹⁷

Endnotes

- ¹ I John 4:8,16
² cf. Isaiah 14:12-14 with Revelation 12:8-13 & D&C 22:8-15; see also I Timothy 3:6
³ Isaiah 14:12-14 & D&C 76:3i-m; cf. II Nephi 1:101-104
⁴ I John 1:5 with I John 4:8,16
⁵ I John 3:16 & 4:9 with John 3:16 & Alma 14:93
⁶ cf. Alma 16:215-218 & 19:93-97
⁷ Deuteronomy 30:19,20 with Joshua 8:34; cf. Jeremiah 21:8
⁸ cf. Matthew 22:34-39 with John 13:34,35 & I John 3:16
⁹ Galatians 3:20, I Timothy 2:5,6 & Hebrews 8:6-13
¹⁰ e.g. Matthew 25:1-47; see also Matthew, chapters 5 thru 7 & Luke 6, especially vss.24-26
¹¹ cf. John 15:1-14 with I John 1:3-10
¹² John 14:6 & I Peter 2:21-25
¹³ cf. Matthew 7:22,23 with Luke 13:24
¹⁴ Romans 1:18; cf. John 3:19
¹⁵ cf. Matthew 16:22-24 with Genesis 3:1-5 & D&C 76:3i
¹⁶ Satan's temptation of Eve would be a steppingstone to getting glory. He would create the problem (the fall of mankind) and then solve it by volunteering to be the redeemer and, thus, become the hero. In the process he thought he would establish his throne above God's throne.
¹⁷ cf. Genesis 1:27-29 with Romans 5:12-21, Ephesians 4:17-21 & Alma 16:92
¹⁸ cf. Romans 8:18-21
¹⁹ cf. Colossians 1 with Hebrews 1:1-5 & John 1:1-16
²⁰ e.g. Matthew 18:23-34 with Mathew 6:9-16
²¹ cf. Matthew 6:39
²² cf. II Nephi 1:81-104 with Moroni 7:10-18 & Genesis 3:1-5; Note that with what judgment Satan judged, he was judged. That is, because he sought to do evil in the sight of God by taking away mankind's agency, Satan was cast down to tempt mankind so as to ensure that our agency was maintained.
²³ cf. Mormon 4:61-64 with Alma 9:33-56
²⁴ cf. Ezekiel 28:5,13-18; cf. I Timothy 3:6
²⁵ Alma 8:41-45 & Alma 19:81-111
²⁶ II Nephi 7:40,41
²⁷ Alma 9:44
²⁸ cf. Matthew 7:1-3 with Alma 19:78-80, Mormon 4:22-25, Moroni 7:12-18, etc.
²⁹ II Nephi 1:101-103
³⁰ II Nephi 1:103,121; cf. III Nephi 4:27
³¹ cf. John 8:44 with Genesis 3:1-5; see also II Corinthians 10:3-6
³² II Timothy 3:1-9, Hebrews 6:3-8 & Jude 5-19; cf. Mark 1:12,13 with John 6
³³ cf. D&C 1:3 with I Nephi 2:62-84
³⁴ D&C 1:3e
³⁵ Revelation 12:8-13, Jude 6 & D&C 28:10
³⁶ I Corinthians 10:12-14 & James 1:13-15
³⁷ cf. I Timothy 3:6 & II Corinthians 10:3-6 with Alma 9:35-61 & Moroni 7:10-18
³⁸ cf. Genesis 4:13 with John 3:19-21
³⁹ cf. I Peter 2:25
⁴⁰ cf. John 14:6
⁴¹ cf. Mark 1:12,13
⁴² cf. D&C 28:10 with II Nephi 6:19-23 & II Nephi 12:1-41; e.g. Genesis 4:13 with Genesis 5:6-23
⁴³ II Nephi 1:80-125
⁴⁴ Mark 1:12,13
⁴⁵ cf. Proverbs 14:12 & Romans 6:23 with II Nephi 7:40,41
⁴⁶ cf. John 14-16 with D&C 83:7
⁴⁷ cf. Daniel 9:4-19 & Isaiah 66:4,5 with D&C 83:7 & 85:17,18; see also Genesis 5:43,44, Romans 10:13-16 & II Nephi 14:3,15:1

48 cf. Hebrews 3:7-11
 49 cf. John 3:19-21 & Genesis 9:21-24 with D&C 66:1 & Romans 5:1-5
 50 e.g. II Chronicles 18:18-22 with II Corinthians 2:9-12
 51 cf. D&C 46:5b,c with Matthew 6:38
 52 Acts 17:24-27 (cf. Jacob 3 & Romans 11)
 53 cf. II Corinthians 5:10 & Hebrews 6:3 with Psalm 9
 54 Alma 15:55,56, Jeremiah 17:10, John 14:13,14, etc.
 55 e.g. II Chronicles 18:18-22
 56 cf. I Nephi 3:125,126 with II Corinthians 10:3-6, Ephesians 6:10-18 & Colossians 3:1-4
 57 Genesis 3:5; cf. Matthew 22:13, 25:30,31, etc.
 58 cf. John 8:44 with Genesis 3:5, II Nephi 1:104, 6:20-23, Ether 3:98-101 & D&C 3:3,4
 59 cf. Luke 10:19 with II Nephi 1:101-104 & D&C 28:10-12
 60 I Nephi 3:167-237 (esp. 141, 206, 219, 236) & 4:60
 61 cf. Revelation 17:5,15-18, D&C 1:3e, D&C 34:3d, I Nephi 3:140-237, 4:60 & II Nephi 7:23-25 with
 II Thessalonians 2:1-12 (esp. 7)
 62 cf. James 3:14,15
 63 cf. Genesis 3:4,5, Revelation 12:8,12 & D&C 28:10c, 76:3i,j with Luke 10:19, John 8:44 & II Nephi 1:101-104
 64 cf. D&C 76:3j, 85:35e & Isaiah 14:4-23 (esp. 13)
 65 D&C 22:8-15
 66 cf. Luke 10:19 with D&C 28:10c & 76:3j
 67 D&C 28:10b
 68 cf. II Thessalonians 2:1-12 & Romans 1:25 with D&C 28:10, 76:3i-m & Revelation 12:4,8-12; see II Peter 2:9-
 22 & Jude 1:5-19 with I Corinthians 10:6-15
 69 I Corinthians 3:16,17, 6:19,20 & II Corinthians 6:16; see also Ephesians 2:19-22 & Colossians 1:16-18
 70 I John 4:7-9,16
 71 cf. Isaiah 14:12-15
 72 cf. II Thessalonians 2:4
 73 II Thessalonians 2:1-12 (esp. 4) with I Corinthians 3:16,17, 6:19,20 & II Corinthians 6:16; see also Ephesians
 2:19-22 & Colossians 1:16-18
 74 cf. Matthew 16:23-25 with Romans 8:5-8
 75 cf. Romans 3:8-31, 5:19-6:6:23, 8:1-13, I Corinthians 10:1-15, Galatians 3:19-9, 5:13-26, Ephesians 2:2-18 with
 Hebrews 12:5-11 & Revelation 3:14-22
 76 The truth we are to embrace is God's Word, Jesus Christ, who is God's incarnate Word (John 17:17 & John
 1:14). Therefore, we must embrace Jesus Christ as God's Word of life and truth (I John 1:1-3 & Alma 18:12) to
 fulfill the everlasting covenant (Genesis 9:21-23).
 77 God's wisdom, the wisdom which is from above, is first of all pure, then peaceable, etc. (James 3:17). There-
 fore, Zion, even the pure in heart (D&C 94:5c), are they who look up to receive and live by God's wisdom. They
 are purified by looking up to Jesus Christ, who is the wisdom of God for men (I Corinthians 1:23,24 with Isaiah
 11:1,2) and receiving Him as wisdom by feasting upon Jesus Christ as God's Word through feasting upon His
 words – which show us all things we should do, i.e. they show us the *pure* wisdom which is from above (John
 6:63 & II Nephi 14:4 with James 3:17).
 78 cf. D&C 94:5b & Genesis 7:25-28 with Hebrews 11:10
 79 Genesis 9:21-23
 80 Romans 14:17; cf. Isaiah 64:5
 81 Romans 1:18
 82 cf. I Corinthians 6:9,10 & Galatians 5:19-21 with Romans 1:18
 83 It's not clear how Satan proposed to redeem mankind. Would it have involved the making of an atonement, i.e.
 would he have given his life for the sheep as Jesus did (Hebrews 8:1-10:39 with Matthew 5:19,20 & II Nephi
 1:71-73)? No. Jesus alone is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep; Satan, the enemy, is
 merely a thief and murderer (cf. John 10:9-11 with John 8:44 with Genesis 3:1-5).
 84 Hebrews 8:1-10:39 with Matthew 5:19,20 & II Nephi 1:71-73
 85 cf. John 10:9-11 with John 8:44 with Genesis 3:1-5
 86 cf. I Thessalonians 1:10 & Romans 2:5-11 & 5:9 with Luke 3:12; see also Zephaniah 1:14-18

- ⁸⁷ cf. Alma 19:64,94,107
- ⁸⁸ cf. Alma 19:64-111 with Alma 14:93-104
- ⁸⁹ Alma 8:96,97, 9:29-32, & Moroni 7:42,43
- ⁹⁰ cf. Mark 1:12,13 & Mark 16:14-21 with II Nephi 13:24 & III Nephi 5:33 & 12:33, see also Luke 6:46 & Matthew 7:30
- ⁹¹ cf. Genesis 3:2 with Ezekiel 28:13-18 & Isaiah 14:12-15; see also D&C 22:8-15 & 76:3i-m
- ⁹² cf. Genesis 3:30,31 with Hebrews 4:7-11 & Romans 13:11,12; see also Hebrews 9:27,28, Romans 5:18-21, etc.
- ⁹³ cf. Alma 16:226-239, 19:81-94 & Mormon 4:94
- ⁹⁴ cf. II Nephi 1:65-75
- ⁹⁵ cf. John 10:10 with II Nephi 1:115
- ⁹⁶ Genesis 3:1,2
- ⁹⁷ cf. James 3:14-16 with James 3:17,18
- ⁹⁸ cf. Genesis 5:19 with Genesis 5:6-12 & John 8:44
- ⁹⁹ Alma 9:42-45
- ¹⁰⁰ II Nephi 1:103,121
- ¹⁰¹ cf. Revelation 12:10
- ¹⁰² II Nephi 1:121
- ¹⁰³ cf. Revelation 12:8,12 with Job 1:7
- ¹⁰⁴ cf. D&C 85:35e – “*him who seeketh the throne of...the Lamb.*” Note that the word seeketh is present tense, not past tense.
- ¹⁰⁵ cf. Revelation 12:12 with II Thessalonians 2:1-12
- ¹⁰⁶ Matthew 11:12-14, Luke 16:21 with Hebrews 10:32 & Isaiah 59:15; cf. Revelation 7:13,14 with Revelation 12:10-17 & 13:7
- ¹⁰⁷ cf. Genesis 7:69,70, D&C 36:12e-g, 85:35e & Revelation 7:14-17 with D&C 38:6a
- ¹⁰⁸ Ephesians 6:10-18
- ¹⁰⁹ Alma 16:143
- ¹¹⁰ II Thessalonians 2:7-12
- ¹¹¹ Matthew 7:34-37
- ¹¹² cf. Acts 8:26-31
- ¹¹³ II Nephi 14:4-6
- ¹¹⁴ John 1:14-16 with John 6:63
- ¹¹⁵ John 8:31-36
- ¹¹⁶ James 3:13-18
- ¹¹⁷ John 14:15-18 & 16:13