

*What is the Mormon Church. . . . really?*

# An Easter study in CONTRASTS: What atonement means to Mormons and to Christians

Teacher, Yvon Prehn

Check out the website:

[www.livelifebythebook.com](http://www.livelifebythebook.com)

And

[www.youtube.com/livelifebythebook](http://www.youtube.com/livelifebythebook)

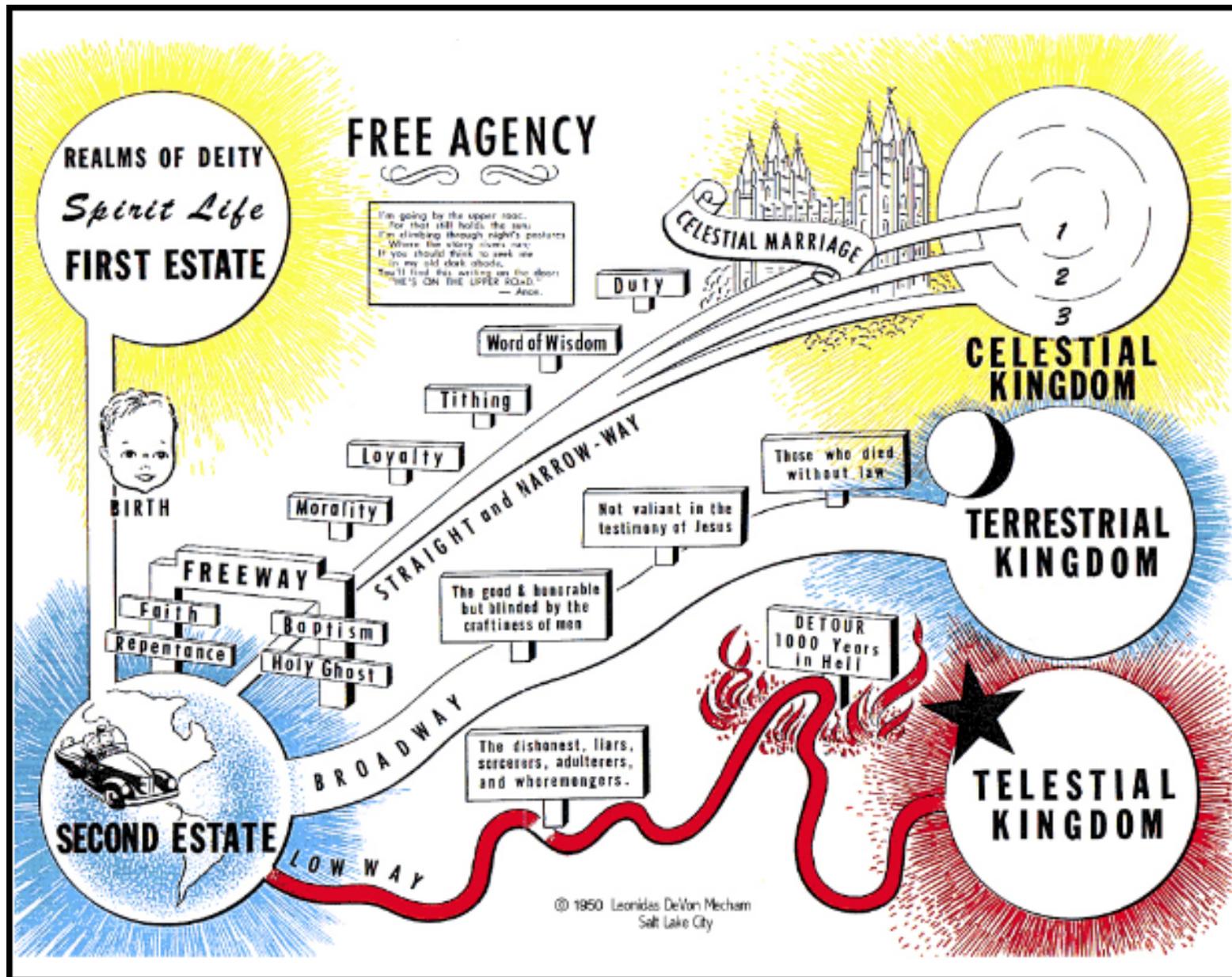


# Review of the Mormon view of the Fall and consequences of sin

- As God's first children on earth, Adam and Eve were living in their garden paradise. **They didn't feel any sorrow or pain, which might seem nice, except that without it, they also couldn't feel joy.** They didn't remember their pre-earth life. If they hadn't eaten the forbidden fruit, they would have lived like that forever and never had children. Mankind never would have been born or the world populated.
- As we know, Adam and Eve succumbed to Satan's temptations to eat the fruit . . . **But it wasn't all bad because they could now feel great joy. "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:25) . . . .**
- **Once out of the garden, they were able to progress and learn to become more like our Heavenly Father. In addition, they could have children, which meant the rest of God's spirit children (all of us) could come to Earth, experience physical bodies, and be proven by our daily choices.**
  - From [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org)

# Summary of the Mormon view of Original sin—the Fall

- Adam’s “fall” was not entirely a bad thing
- Without it people could not experience “joy”
- Without it no children could be born and become mortal
- Without becoming mortal people can’t progress to exaltation and become gods
- No belief that people carry Adam’s guilt
- Everyone is born innocent
- All responsible for own sins



<http://www.whatdomormonsbelieve.com/2012/01/the-third-article-of-faith/>

- *We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind **may be saved**, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.*
- *. . . .**Through the atonement, our bodies will be made perfect after this life**, that much is guaranteed to us. In order to perfect our spirits, we must accept the terms and conditions set by Jesus Christ. The atonement was accomplished by Jesus Christ by His suffering for our sins in Gethsemane and on the cross and through His resurrection.*

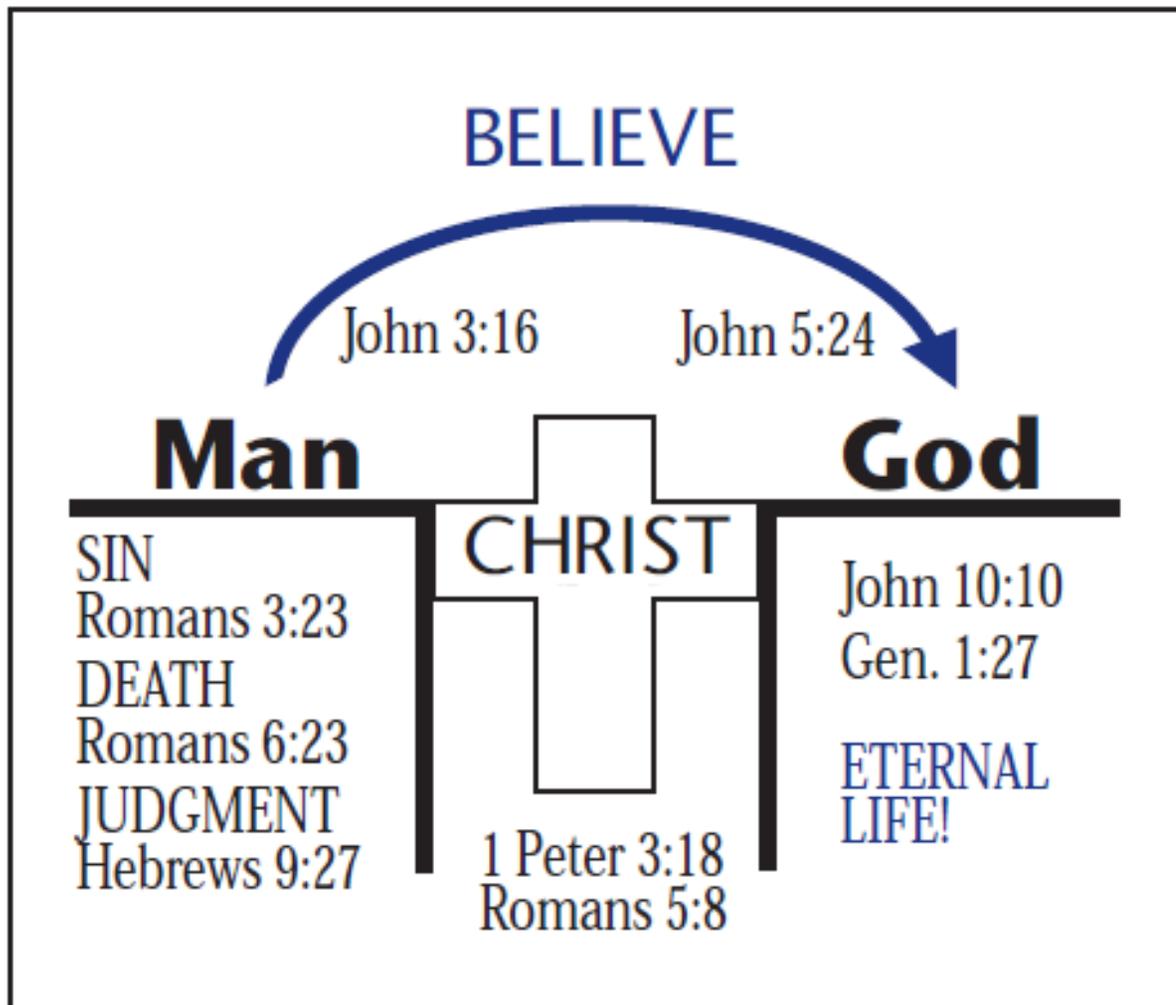
- **The Third Article of Faith**



## [http://mormonbeliefs.org/mormon\\_beliefs/mormon-beliefs-the-plan-of-salvation](http://mormonbeliefs.org/mormon_beliefs/mormon-beliefs-the-plan-of-salvation)

The Lord knew we would all fall short of meriting exaltation; only the pure and righteous can dwell in His presence after earth life. Thus, He provided a savior, Jesus Christ, to complete an atonement for our sins, if we would only repent and lay hold upon His eternal sacrifice. *The atonement compensates for the Fall of Adam and obviates (removes) original sin. It provides a way for all men and women to be resurrected in preparation for exaltation.*

# Atonement, the Biblical view



# Not only potential salvation but also

- Atonement
- Propitiation
- Redemption
- Sacrifice
- Reconciliation
- Justification
- All of these things happened with the death of Christ, ***let's look at them—see Handout with terms defined—it is a separate handout on the website.***

## One more thing: *the debt is paid in full!*

- Paul tells us that we had a "sentence of death." This sentence is due to our breaking the law of God. Therefore, we were legally guilty before God because we broke his law. Furthermore, when Jesus was on the cross he said "It is finished," (John 19:30). In Greek it is, "tetelestai" and it was a legal term.
- "The sixth word or saying that Jesus spoke from the cross was the single Greek word tetelestai which means 'It is finished.' Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word tetelestai written across them, meaning "paid in full." This word on Jesus' lips was significant. When He said, "It is finished" (not "I am finished"), He meant His redemptive work was completed.
  - From [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)

# Summary

- Mormon view—
  - Atonement means that everyone can now work towards exaltation
  - Christ made exaltation possible
  - But people must work now for salvation
- Christian view
  - Christ did it all
  - It is finished
  - Christian is an Ambassador, not one who works to continue to pay a debt