

Adam and Eve: Agency & the Fall: Comparing Biblical Faiths & LDS Scriptures

The Old Testament is illuminated by comparing the Bible with the Book of Mormon and other Scriptures of the Restoration. This discussion of agency and the fall of Adam and Eve identifies the nature of humanity and purpose of life.

Parallel Accounts of the Garden of Eden and Creation of Adam and Eve in Moses, Abraham, and Genesis

Moses 3:8-17

And I, the Lord God, planted a garden eastward in ^aEden, and there I put the man whom I had formed.

9 And out of the ground made I, the Lord God, to grow every tree, ^anaturally, that is pleasant to the sight of man; and man could behold it. And it became also a ^bliving soul. For it was spiritual in the day that I created it; for it remaineth in the sphere in which I, God, created it, yea, even all things which I prepared for the use of man; and man saw that it was good for food. And I, the Lord God, planted the ^ctree of life also in the midst of the garden, and also the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

10 And I, the Lord God, caused a river to go out of ^aEden to water the garden

14 And the name of the third river was Hiddekel; that which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river was the Euphrates.

15 And I, the Lord God, took the man, and put him into the Garden of ^aEden, to dress it, and to keep it.

16 And I, the Lord God, commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat,

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, nevertheless, thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee; but, remember that I forbid it, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

18 And I, the Lord God, said unto mine ^aOnly Begotten, that it was not good that the man should be ^balone; wherefore, **I will make an ^chelp meet for him.**

Abraham 4:7-14

7 And the ^aGods formed man from the ^bdust of the ground, and took his ^cspirit (that is, the man's spirit), and put it into him; and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living ^dsoul.

8 And the Gods planted a garden, eastward in ^aEden, and there they put the man, whose spirit they had put into the body which they had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Gods to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the ^atree of life, also, in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

10 There was a river running out of Eden, to water the garden, and from thence it was parted and became into four heads.

11 And the Gods took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it.

12 And the Gods commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat,

13 But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the time that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Now I, Abraham, saw that it was after the Lord's ^atime, which was after the time of ^bKolob; for as yet the Gods had not appointed unto Adam his reckoning.

14 And the Gods said: Let us make an **help meet for the man**, for it is not good that the man should be alone, therefore **we will form an help meet for him.**

Genesis 2:8-18

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in ^aEden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the ^asight, and good for ^bfood; the ^ctree of ^dlife also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of ^eknowledge of good and evil.

10 And a river went out of ^aEden to water the garden; and from thence it was ^bparted, and became into four heads.

11 The name of the first *is* Pison: that *is* it which ^acompasseth the whole land of ^bHavilah, where *there is* gold;

12 And the gold of that land *is* good: there *is* bdellium and ^athe onyx stone.

13 And the name of the second river *is* Gihon: the same *is* it that ^acompasseth the whole land of ^bEthiopia.

14 And the name of the third river *is* Hiddekel: that *is* it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river *is* Euphrates.

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the ^agarden of ^bEden ^cto dress it and to ^dkeep it.

16 And, the LORD God ^acommanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest ^bfreely eat:

17 But of the ^atree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the ^cday that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

18 ¶ And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; **I will make him an help meet for him.**

Agency in The Bible

The KJV Old Testament does not use the word “agency,” but in other translations it is found once in Daniel 8:25. However we can find “free will.” The Bible describe some sort of human freedom in three ways:

- 1) Circumstantial freedom (from Egypt),
- 2) Natural freedom (to choose), and
- 3) Acquired freedom when one is freed from sin.

Here is a sampling of verses that refer to human agency

Old Testament

1. Lev 1:3; 19:5 “offer it of your own **free will**”
2. Lev 22:18, 19, 21, 23, 29; Num 29:39; Ezra 7:16; “a **free will** offering”
3. Deut 18:6 “Suppose a Levite comes by his own **free will**”
4. Joshua 24:15 “**Choose** ye this day whom ye will serve. . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”
5. 1 Kings 18:21 “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God . . .”
6. Daniel 8:25 “he will make himself great in his own mind . . . he will be broken without human **agency**” (NASB)

New Testament

1. Matt 23:37; Luke 13:34, “...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not!**” (also Rev 22:17)
2. John 8:36, “If the Son therefore shall **make you free**, ye shall be **free** indeed.”
3. John 10:18, “No one is taking it from me; I lay it down of my own **free will**”
4. John 17:24, “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.”
5. 2 Cor 8:3,17; “They did it of their own **free will**. . . I assure you that by their own **free will**”
6. Ephesians 1:4; 2:8 “He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”
7. Gal 1:1 “Not sent from men nor through the **agency** of man, but through Jesus Christ” (NASB, NET)
8. Philemon 1:14, “. . . But without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own **free will**.”

These biblical verses have a diverse interpretation by those of different faith traditions. We will look at eight.

Agency in Other Faith Traditions

- **Jewish** historian, Josephus (AD 37-100), recorded that the Pharisees maintained that humans had “free will,” but the Sadducees attributed everything to chance, and the Essenes, to predestination or divine providence (*Jewish Encyclopedia* quoting Josephus, *Antiquities*, xiii. 5, § 9; xviii. 1). A generation earlier, from the time of the New Testament, the philosopher Philo from Alexandria taught that people are rational, while animals are not (*Oxford Classical Dictionary*; Philon (4), ‘Philo’). From his Jewish background, “free will” is a feature of the human soul which enables us to make ethical actions. In Jewish thought, free will or choice is a gift from God (Michelle Okun at Trinity College, *A Discussion of the Theological Implications of Free Will In the Biblical Story of the Exodus From Egypt*, 8).
 - **Islamic** sacred text claim that God/Allah has absolute omniscience and predestinates humanity, that divine decree predestinates one’s birth, death, and family (Qur’ān 2:255). Humanity has the free will or ability to choose their health, wealth, and their deeds. Man will be judged according to their actions, but their views of what are good actions differ (Qur’ān 41:46).
 - **Christianity** from the 5th century the Roman Christian Empire labeled “the fall” as a tragic mistake. They taught that human free will (or agency) was controlled by God. They claim if God has foreknowledge, he also predestinates humanity (Romans 8:29). Church creeds describe an omniscient (Proverbs 15:3), omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:23), and omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:17). God. Ideas developed that God controlled humans, to some degrees. As referred to earlier, this affects their view of salvation as well. Six subsets of Christianity show these differences.
1. **Catholic** The Catechism asserts that each human, “By free will, he is capable of directing himself toward his true good. He finds his perfection ‘in seeking and loving what is true and good.’ By virtue of his soul and his spiritual powers of intellect and will, man is endowed with freedom, an ‘outstanding manifestation of the divine image.’ By his reason, man recognizes the voice of God which urges him ‘to do what is good and avoid what is evil.’ Everyone is obliged to follow this law, which makes itself heard in conscience” (Catechism Catholic Church, #1704-1706).

2. **Eastern Orthodox:** People have the ability to reach up to God so that He can save them. Irenaeus (c. 130 – c. 202 AD), an Early Christian or Church Father, wrote: “For there is no coercion with God, but a good will towards us is present with Him continually. . . . In man, as well as the angels, He has placed the power of choice” (*Against the Heresies, IV, 37, I*). A modern voice for the church published: “Free will is our ability to choose between good and evil, between righteousness and sin. We acknowledge the limitations of human nature itself on free will, physical and spiritual. In every choice we risk falling into sin without the Grace of God to guide us. And sin limits our choices, drawing us away from God” (*Do We Have Free Will?* published 2019; <https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/free-will/>).
3. **Luther** stated that “the power of ‘free-will’ is nil, and it does no good, nor can do, without grace It follows, therefore, that “free-will” is obviously a term applicable only to Divine Majesty; for only He can do, and does If ‘free-will’ is ascribed to men, it is ascribed with no more propriety than divinity itself would be—and no blasphemy could exceed that!” (*The Bondage of the Will*, 1525; <https://www.reformedreader.org/bow.htm>).
4. **Protestant Reformers** claim that humans lie in bondage to sin and can in no way earn salvation. If God has foreknowledge, he has also predestination. Only God can scoop down to bring humans up to Him (Question Sixty of the *Heidelberg Catechism*, 1563; <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-theology-of-the-reformers/>).
5. **Calvinist** (Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, etc.) Humans are born in a state of “Total depravity” which means man cannot act without God’s grace. Calvin wrote: “ “For we do not say that man is dragged unwillingly into sinning, but that because his will is corrupt, he is held captive under the yoke of sin and therefore of necessity wills in an evil way. For where there is bondage, there is necessity” (*Bondage and Liberation of the Will*, 69-70). Consequently, Calvin, claims the will is “unfree.”
6. **The Church of Jesus Christ of LDS** “Behold these thy brethren; they are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave unto them their knowledge, in the day I created them; and in the Garden of Eden, gave I unto man his agency” (Moses 7:32). Furthermore, opposition to agency or free will is attributed to Satan: “because that Satan rebelleth 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” (Moses 4:3). These doctrines are based on teachings from the modern canon—some follow.

How Do You Define Free Will or “Agency?”

Over the centuries, philosophers have battled the balance between fate and *freewill*. Some claim that God’s “omniscience” and humanity’s “free-will” are incompatible, others find compromises. The Restoration offers a solution through modern revelations and in the way we define words. We use “agency” summarized in D&C 101:78, “That every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to the moral agency which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgement.” This is consistent with our Second Article of Faith, which denounces traditional ideas on the fall and depravity of humanity: “men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgressions.” The restored doctrine of the fall and premortal life give believers a very different view on our responsibilities and mortal agency.

Agency in The Book of Mormon—Best Examples

1. **2 Nephi 2:16, 27**, “The Lord God gave unto man that he should **act for himself**. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. . . . 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”
2. **Mosiah 3: 11** “...His blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the **transgression of Adam**, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.
3. **Mosiah 3:19; 4:7**, “The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from **the fall of Adam**, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him. . . . 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.

4. **Alma 30:17**, “[The false prophet Korihor taught]... every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and that every man conquered according to his strength; whatsoever a man [does is] no crime.”
5. **Helaman 14:30–31** “. . . ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge and he hath made you free. He hath given unto you that ye might know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might choose life or death . . .”
6. **Moroni 8:10-12** “teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism...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!”

Observations on Book of Mormon Doctrine

Significantly, the Prophet Joseph Smith may not have been aware of dramatic change to Judeo-Christian-Islamic thought on the depravity of man as he translated the Book of Mormon. Evidence shows the speed was fast and without consulting other sources. During the sixty days of blitz translation of approximately 9 to 10 pages per day from April 7 to June 30 of 1829, Joseph and Oliver learned wonderful truths about agency or free will (John W. Welch, *Charting the Book of Mormon*; and <https://knowhy.bookofmormoncentral.org/knowhy/why-is-the-timing-of-the-book-of-mormons-translation-so-marvelous>).

Agency in The Doctrine and Covenants

1. **D&C 29:36** “. . . a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency.”
2. **D&C 58:27** “Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness”
3. **D&C 93:30-31** “All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also; otherwise there is no existence. Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man; because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light”
4. **D&C 101:78** (recited above; also see 124:69)

It is hard to find biblical accounts of the type of “agency” that we find in Restored Revelation (BoM, D&C, PoGP). Agency and accountability are nearly as precious as life itself.

II. The Fall of Humanity:

References to The Fall of Adam + Eve	KJV - Old Testament	KJV - New Testament	Book of Mormon	Doctrine & Covenants	Pearl of Great Price
“The Fall” [of man]	0	0 (Possibly Lk 2:34, Gk unsure)	14	2 (D&C 93:38; 138:19)	1 (Moses 6:59)
Fell or Fallen	0	0	14 (possibly 16, Alma 9:30, 32)	1 (D&C 20:20)	3 (Moses 5:9 [x2]; 6:48)
Adam / Eve (referring to first parents in KJV) Hbw: Soil man / Living	21 / 2	9 / 2	27 / 3	29 / 1	64 / 8
“Forbidden” “Fruit”	0	0	7	1 (D&C 29:40)	0
Eat[en] Fruit / Tree (of knowledge of good and evil)	2 (Gen 3:3, 6)	0	0		5 (Moses 4:8-23)
Eden	11	0	6	1	12

Comparing Doctrines Between Judeo-Christian World and the Book of Mormon-Restoration

Book of Mormon References from the chart above:

1. “Fall” of man: 2 Ne 2:4, 26 (x2); 9:6 (x2); Mosiah 3:19; 4:7; Alma 18:36; 22:13; 42:9; Hel 14:16; Mormon 9:2; Ether 3:2, 13.
2. “Fall” or “fallen” [state] 1Ne 10:6; 2Ne 2:22, 25; 9:6; 25:17; Mosiah 27:25; Alma 12:22; 22:12, 14; 34:9; 42:6, 12, 14; Moroni 7:24 {+ possibly Alma 9:30, 32?}.

3. "Adam" and/or "Eve" (referring to first parents) 1 Ne 5:11; 2 Ne 2:18, 19, 22, 25; 9:21; Mosiah 3:11, 16, 19, 26; 4:7; 28:17; Alma 12:22, 23; 18:36; 22:12, 13; 40:18; 42:5; Hel 14:16; Morm 3:20; 9:12 (2 x); Ether 1:3, 4; Moro 8:8; 10:3.
4. *Forbidden Fruit*: 1 Ne 8:28; 2Ne 2:15, 18, 19, Mos 3:26; Alma 12:22; Hel 6:28.
5. *Eden* (referring only to the Garden of Eden or premortal abode of first parents) 2 Ne 2:19, 22; 8:3; Alma 12:21; 42:2 (2x).

The Fall of Humanity According to Jewish Views

(Cited from: *Jewish Encyclopedia* from 1906—<http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5999-fall-of-man>)

- The fall of man, as a theological concept, begins to appear only in the late Apocrypha and pseudepigrapha,
- Adam is blamed for the shortening of the years of his progeny.
- The consequence of the Fall came to an end with the Flood, when a generation of pious men sprang from Noah.
- The fall of man is without dogmatic importance.

Views During Inter-Testamental Period (~ Century Before the New Testament Record): Philo's Allegorical Interpretation:

- Adam typifies the rational,
- Eve the sensuous element of human nature;
- The serpent is the symbol of carnal lust and pleasure.
- The fall of man as a typical exposition of the psychological processes which precede sin (temptation) and gradually (through self-deception) culminate in actual sin

Views of the Rabbis (~AD 1 to 600—Late 2nd Temple through its Destruction and After—Overlaps NT & Christianity)

- The sin of Adam had certain grievous results for him and for the earth.
- The Shekinah [*God's light*] left earth after his fall. Adam lost his personal splendor, deathlessness, and gigantic stature
- All men were doomed thenceforth to die . . . Adam wished to refrain from procreating; but, learning that the Torah would be given to Israel, was induced to change his mind.
- Through the illicit intercourse of Eve with the serpent . . . her descendants w[ere] corrupted, Israel alone overcoming this fatal defect by accepting the Torah at Sinai, which had been offered to and rejected by all other nations.
- If Israel had not made the golden calf, death would have been removed from the midst of Israel
- Pious men and women overcame, the consequences of Adam's fall. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, and Miriam did not suffer death at the hand of the angel of death; they died through God's kiss, and even their bodies were not consumed by worms
- [Some contend] every death is caused by an actual sin . . . [others] contends that death is the result of the Fall.

The Fall of Humanity According to Catholic Creed

(Direct Quote from 2nd Council of Orange, A.D. 529)

Original sin is the privation of sanctifying grace in consequence of the sin of Adam: one man has transmitted to the whole human race not only the death of the body, which is the punishment of sin, but even sin itself, *which is the death of the soul*. As death is the privation of the principle of life, the death of the soul is the privation of sanctifying grace which according to all theologians is the principle of supernatural life. Therefore, if original sin is "the death of the soul," it is the privation of sanctifying grace.

The Fall of Humanity According to Protestant Origins

(*Westminster Confession of Faith, Chp. 5*)

Section I.—Our first parents, begin seduced by the subtilty and temptations of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory.

Section II.—By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. [*Depravity of Man*]

Section III.—They being the root of mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation.

Section IV.—From this original corruption [2 *Peter 2:19*], whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.

Section V.—This corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be through Christ pardoned and mortified, yet both itself, and all the motions thereof, are truly and properly sin.

Section VI - Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner, whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.

The Fall of Humanity According to Joseph Smith:

In Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph addressed the fall of Adam and Eve in a few sermons. The best example comes from his extemporaneous discourse on July 9, 1843—which was recorded by his scribe James Burgess as follows:

When man fell he did not lose his image but his character, still retaining the image of his maker, Christ, who is the image of man [and] is also the express image of the Father's person . . . And through the atonement of Christ and the resurrection and obedience in the gospel, we shall again be conformed to the image of his Son Jesus Christ. Then we shall have attain to the image, glory, and character of God (spelling standardized as found in Kent P. Jackson, *Joseph Smith's Commentary on the Bible* (SLC, UT: Deseret Book, 1994), 7; original spelling found in Ehat and Cook, *Words of Joseph Smith*, 247; and *josephsmithpapers.org*).

In addition to Joseph's Sermons the scriptures he restored are rich with a detoured understanding than was understood in his day. The Book of Mormon is a rich resource for understanding the fall, as well as the Pearl of Great Price and Doctrine and Covenants.

The Fall of Humanity According to The Book of Mormon

- **2 Nephi 2:18-21** “[The devil] had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable forever, he sought also the misery of all mankind. Wherefore, he said unto Eve, yea, even that old serpent, who is the devil, who is the father of all lies, wherefore he said: Partake of the forbidden fruit, and ye shall not die, but ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. **19** And after Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit they were driven out of the garden of Eden, to till the earth. **20** And they have brought forth children; yea, even the family of all the earth. **21** And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; wherefore, their state became a state of probation”
- **2 Nephi 2:22-25** “behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. **23** And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. **24** But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. **25** Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.
- **2 Nephi 9:6** “For as ^adeath hath passed upon all men, to fulfil the merciful ^bplan of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of ^cresurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the ^dfall; and the fall came by reason of ^etransgression; and because man became fallen they were ^fcut off from the ^gpresence of the Lord.
- **Mosiah 3: 11** “...His blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.
- **Mosiah 3:19; 4:7**, “The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from **the fall of Adam**, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him. . . . 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.
- **Mosiah 16:5**; “But remember that he that persists in his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion against God, 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 to God.
- **Mosiah 27:25**, “The Lord said unto me: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters”

- **Alma 12:22-23** “Now we see that Adam did fall by the partaking of the forbidden fruit, according to the word of God; and thus we see, that by his fall, all mankind became a lost and fallen people. And now behold, I say unto you that if it had been possible for Adam to have partaken of the fruit of the tree of life at that time, there would have been no death, and the word would have been void, making God a liar, for he said: If thou eat thou shalt surely die.”
- **Alma 30:17**, “[The false prophet Korihor taught]... every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and that every man conquered according to his strength; whatsoever a man [does is] no crime.”
- **Ether 3:13**, “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.
- **Moroni 8:8** “Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. . . little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them; and the law of circumcision is done away in me”
- **Moroni 8:10-12** “teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism...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!”

Also see accounts by Alma the Younger, Ammon, and Aaron’s missionary work, for several more references.

Observations on Book of Mormon Doctrine

Significantly, the Prophet Joseph Smith may not have been aware of dramatic change to Judeo-Christian-Islamic thought on the depravity of man as he translated the Book of Mormon. Evidence shows the speed was fast and without consulting other sources. During the sixty days of blitz translation of approximately 9 to 10 pages per day from April 7 to June 30 of 1829, Joseph and Oliver learned wonderful truths about agency or free will. (<https://knowwhy.bookofmormoncentral.org/knowwhy/why-is-the-timing-of-the-book-of-mormons-translation-so-marvelous>; Also see Welch, *Charting the Book of Mormon*)

Comparing Old Testament and Pearl of Great Price Texts on the Fall of Humanity

In the *Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith’s translation of the *Book of Abraham* was not published. Facsimile 2 does not include the corresponding story. In the third section of Facsimile 2, we learn in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve also received priesthood ordinances and keys words of the priesthood (probably similar to Abraham’s revelation described in the seventh section). In the Book of Moses is part of Joseph Smith’s Bible translation. Genesis is the most thorough portion of his “New Translation” (or JST, see my handouts from 2021 Come Follow Me on the JST). The following parallel looks at the additions received in the JST from KJV to the Book of Moses. Everything in red is additional revealed text:

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **3** But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: **5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **6** And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. **7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

God Arraigns Adam and Eve

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. **9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where **art** thou? **10** And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. **11** And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. **14** And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: **15** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Punishment of Mankind

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule [with TEB] thee.

Moses 4:3-23

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; **4** 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.

5 And now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which I, the Lord God, had made. **6** And Satan put it into the heart of the serpent, (for he had drawn away many after him,) and he sought also to beguile Eve, for he knew not the mind of God, wherefore he sought to destroy the world.

7 And he said unto the woman: Yea, hath God said—Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (And he spake by the mouth of the serpent.) **8** And the woman said unto the serpent: We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; **9** But of the fruit of the tree which thou beholdest in the midst of the garden, God hath said—Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **10** And the serpent said unto the woman: Ye shall not surely die; **11** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **12** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it *became* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *her* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and also gave unto her husband with her, and he did eat. **13** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *had been* naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

God Arraigns Adam and Eve

14 And they heard the voice of the Lord God, *as they were* walking in the garden, in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife *went to hide* themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. **15** And **I**, the Lord God, called unto Adam, and said unto him: Where **goest** thou? **16** And he said: I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *beheld that I* was naked, and I hid myself. **17** And **I**, the Lord God, said unto Adam: Who told thee thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat, *if so thou shouldst surely die?* **18** And the man said: The woman thou gavest *me*, and *commandest that she should remain* with me, she gave me of the fruit of the tree and I did eat. **19** And **I**, the Lord God, said unto the woman: What is this *thing which* thou hast done? And the woman said: The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. **20** And **I**, the Lord God, said unto the serpent: Because thou hast done this thou *shalt be* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life; **21** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed; *and he* shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Punishment of Mankind

22 Unto the woman, **I**, the Lord God, said: I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception. In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children, and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee

Genesis 3 continued:

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

The Expulsion from Paradise

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Moses 4 continued

23 And unto Adam, **I, the Lord God**, said: Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the **fruit of the** tree of which I commanded thee, saying—Thou shalt not eat of it, cursed **shall be** the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

24 Thorns also, and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

25 **By** the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, **until** thou shalt return unto the ground—**for thou shalt surely die**—for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou **wast**, and unto dust shalt thou return.

26 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living; **for thus have I, the Lord God, called the first of all women, which are many.**

The Expulsion from Paradise

27 Unto Adam, and also unto his wife, did **I**, the Lord God, make coats of skins, and clothed them. 28 And **I**, the Lord God, said **unto mine Only Begotten**: Behold, the man is become as one of us to know good and evil; and now lest he put forth his hand and partake also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever,

29 Therefore **I**, the Lord God, will send him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken;

30 **For as I, the Lord God, liveth, even so my words cannot return void, for as they go forth out of my mouth they must be fulfilled.**

31 So **I** drove out the man, and **I** placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, cherubim and a flaming sword, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.

32 **(And these are the words which I spake unto my servant Moses, and they are true even as I will; and I have spoken them unto you. See thou show them unto no man, until I command you, except to them that believe. Amen.)**

Comparing Bible and Book of Mormon Texts on the Fall of Humanity

Romans 5:12-19

As by one man **sin** entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**13**(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. **14**Nevertheless death reigned from **Adam** to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of **Adam's transgression**, who is the figure of him that was to come. . . . **16**And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. **17**For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) . . . **19**For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

2 Peter 2:19

...themselves are the servants of corruption /depravity (NIV)

Job 31:33

(KJV) If I covered my **transgressions as Adam**, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom
(NIV) If I have concealed my sin as people do, by hiding my guilt in my heart

2 Nephi 2:4, 18-27

4. . . . the way is prepared from **the fall** of man, and salvation is free. . . . 18. . . . he said unto Eve, yea, even that old serpent, who is the devil, who is the father of all lies, wherefore he said: Partake of the forbidden fruit, and ye shall not die, but ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. 19. And after **Adam and Eve** had partaken of the forbidden fruit they were driven out of the garden of **Eden**, to till the earth. 20 And they have brought forth children; yea, even the family of all the earth. 21 And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh; wherefore, their state became a **state of probation**, and their time was lengthened, according to the commandments which the Lord God gave unto the children of men. For he gave commandment that all men **must repent**; for he showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the **transgression** of their parents. 22 And now, behold, if Adam had not **transgressed** he would not have **fallen**, but he would have remained in the garden of **Eden**. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. 23 And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a **state of innocence**, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no **sin**. 24 But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. 25 **Adam fell** that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. 26 And the Messiah cometh in the fulness of time, that he may 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 law.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

2 Nephi 9:6

For as death hath passed upon all men, to fulfil the merciful plan of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of resurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall; and the **fall** came by reason of **transgression**; and because man became **fallen** they were cut off from the presence of the Lord. Wherefore, it must needs be an infinite atonement . . .

1 Corinthians 15:45-47

So it is written: "The first man **Adam** became a living being"; the last **Adam**, a life-giving spirit. 46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

Alma 12:21-26

21 What does the scripture mean, which saith that God placed cherubim and a flaming sword on the east of the garden of **Eden**, lest our first parents should enter and partake of the fruit of the tree of life, and live forever? And thus we see that there was no possible chance that they should live forever. 22 . . . Now we see that **Adam did fall** by the partaking of the forbidden fruit, according to the word of God; and thus we see, that by his **fall**, all mankind became a lost and **fallen** people. 23 And now behold, I say unto you that if it had been possible for **Adam** to have partaken of the fruit of the tree of life at that time, there would have been no death, and the word would have been void, making God a liar, for he said: If thou eat thou shalt surely **die**. 24 And we see that **death** comes upon mankind, . . . 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

More Scripture Unique to the Restoration for Further Study:

Moses 6:53, 59-61 "Behold I have **forgiven** thee thy **transgression** in the **Garden of Eden**. . . .

59 by reason of **transgression** cometh **the fall**, which **fall** bringeth death, and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water, and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so became of dust a living soul, even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye might be sanctified from all **sin**, and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come, even immortal glory; **60** For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, and by the blood ye are sanctified; **61** Therefore it is given to abide in you; the record of heaven; the Comforter; the peaceable things of immortal glory; the truth of all things; that which quickeneth all things, which maketh alive all things . . ."

D&C 29:36-47

36 "And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil . . . **40** Wherefore, it came to pass that the devil tempted Adam, and he partook of the forbidden fruit and transgressed the commandment, wherein he became subject to the will of the devil, because he yielded unto temptation. **41** Wherefore, I, the Lord God, caused that he should be cast out from the Garden of Eden, from my presence, because of his transgression, wherein he became spiritually dead, which is the first death, even that same death which is the last death, which is spiritual, . . . **42** But, behold, I say unto you that I, the Lord God, gave unto Adam and unto his seed, that they should not die as to the temporal death, until I, the Lord God, should send forth **angels** to declare unto them **repentance** and **redemption**, through faith on the name of mine **Only Begotten Son**. **43** And thus did I, the

Lord God, appoint unto man the days of his ^aprobation—that by his ^bnatural death he might be ^craised in ^dimmortality unto eternal life, even as many as would believe; **44** And they that believe not unto eternal ^adamnation; for they cannot be redeemed from their spiritual ^bfall, because they repent not; **45** For they love darkness rather than light, and their ^adeeds are evil, and they receive their ^bwages of ^cwhom they list to obey. **46** But behold, I say unto you, that little ^achildren are ^bredeemed from the foundation of the world through mine Only Begotten; **47** Wherefore, they cannot ^asin, for power is not given unto Satan to ^btempt little children, until they ^cbegin to become ^daccountable before me.”

D&C 93:38

“Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning; and God having redeemed man from **the fall**, men became again, in their infant state, innocent before God.”

D&C 138:10, 18-19

“For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead **18** While this vast multitude waited and conversed, rejoicing in the hour of their deliverance from the chains of death, the Son of God appeared, declaring liberty to the captives who had been faithful; **19** And there he preached to them the everlasting gospel, the doctrine of the resurrection and the redemption of mankind from the fall, and from individual sins on conditions of repentance.”

Another Look at Eden: Two Contradictory Commandments?

Some have asked, “Why did God give 2 contradictory commandments in Eden?” I don’t think He did—I think it was a matter of sequence. God knows the end from the beginning. Satan disregarded God's designated sequence from the pre-mortal realm and continues today. God’s work is to provide the means to save us all. His plan involves proper sequence for experiences and growth. Our loving Heavenly Father established his miracle of our transformation through Jesus' grace and our line upon line progression. Why would the Edenic experiences of Adam and Eve be any different?

Heavenly Father often gives us two commandments that have to be lived in sequence —have live the law of chastity and also rear offspring. God sets the bounds for procreation, and requires mortals to defer intimate relations, much less procreation until they marry. In Eden we believe God gave all the commandments that would benefit Adam and Eve in their innocent state. Two were recorded: Don't partake of the tree of knowledge; Do multiply and replenish the earth. They only seem inconsistent if one believes there was no other way to keep the second commandment without rejecting the first. The so-called "contradictory" commandments may have simply been a matter of waiting on God’s timing for them to learn what they needed to learn without rushing the process by partaking of the forbidden fruit. Perhaps our loving Heavenly Father, had another way in mind, but because they rejected his commandments and began taking orders from Satan, he had to expel them from the Garden and introduce them to their Redeemer in his new role as their Savior.

1. TIMING:

- God’s timing includes teaching us line up on line to become like Him
- God's sequential creation of this earth teaches He has a time and season to everything
- Have you ever thought about when was God’s time and season for our first parents to receive their knowledge of good and evil?

2. SCRIPTURAL CLARIFICATION:

We know from the scriptures and other inspired sources:

- God created “worlds without number” by His “Son” (Moses 1:33)
- Satan knew what was done on other worlds
- Other worlds had agency . . . but perhaps not a devil, because the Lord told Enoch that this world was the most wicked of all his creations (Moses 7:36).
- Satan “sought to destroy the agency of man” (Moses 4:3)
- Satan is the great counterfeit of Jesus (actually Lucifer wanted Heavenly Father's throne and competed with Heavenly Father for the loyalty of His spirit children - right?)
- God’s process of our salvation includes teaching us line upon line to become like Him, and providing a Savior's grace to balance Justice with Mercy.

3. COMBINING these ideas I believe, subject to receiving further light on the matter:

- Satan tried to usurp Father in Heaven's role in the Garden of Eden (he'd already attempted a *coup d'etat* in the premarital spirit world) - think this is pretty clear and past speculation
- The so-called "contradictory" commandments were actually a matter of God's order and progression vs. Satan's impatient and nefarious timing
- When Satan asks Adam and Eve to reject God's command, God's timetable and plan—Satan spoke through the mouth of the serpent, a very patient hunter that lies in wait, camouflages itself to deceive its prey, and strikes out suddenly for its victim's head. How very appropriate a disguise or if not a disguise, a metaphor.

4. EXAMPLES OF SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS TO ALTER GOD'S DECREED SEQUENCES:

- Satan tempted Jesus to appease his hunger rather than complete his 40 day fast and master his flesh,
- Lucifer challenged Jesus to prove his divinity NOW and "turn these stones into bread" rather than wait 3 years for his Atoning Proof.
- Satan's typical temptations to humanity is to live selfishly, get what we want now, never defer gratification, we only live once.

5. GOD'S GIFTS

- God has gifts for us, but often Satan tries to usurp God, interject himself between us and God, and then offer what appears to be the same gift or outcome, but without the difficult learning process. Thus he tries to get us to forfeit God's greatest blessings, in return for a mess of pottage today.
- After the Fall, when Heavenly Father delegated administration of this earth to Jesus Christ and removed himself from frequent personal direct contact with humanity, Satan has repeatedly attempted to usurp Christ's role and by offering us counterfeit, temporary rewards if we will agree to worship him and keep his commandments instead. He also offers free access to the praise of the world, satisfying bodily lusts for financial security, wealth, power over others, unrighteous dominion, and unbridled sexual activities. When the gift comes from Satan's hand, it will be on Satan's timetable. When we love Satan more than God, and obey Lucifer's commands (a.k.a. "temptations") we lose God's gifts, beginning with losing the Holy Spirit. Then we, like Adam and Eve, must live with the consequences of our breaking God's laws, and often our agency is diminished. The good news - God provided a Savior for us, a Second Adam, to redeem us from the Fall and bring us back into his eternal, celestial presence, line upon line, precept by precept, character trait by character trait, till we too, can be perfect in Christ.