

"This is My Work and My Glory"

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

followHIM: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions

Part 1:

How does knowing about life before birth change how we see our life? Dr. Phil Allred explores Abraham 3 and Moses 1, teaching that God is both all-powerful and deeply personal, and that mortality is a divinely chosen "proving ground" to help us grow, remember our covenants, and seek our own witness of eternal truth.

Part 2:

Dr. Philip Allred continues to examine how the Lord's personal nature helps us face suffering and how Moses's encounter with the Adversary highlights the power of Jesus Christ's mission to help God's children return to Him.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 - Dr. Phllip Allred
- 04:41 Phil Allred's bio
- 06:28 *Come, Follow Me Manual*
- 08:49 Theological dynamite
- 10:37 Abraham's traumatic background
- 13:17 Hurrying to get to Abraham
- 17:55 A cosmic perspective
- 20:49 Jesus calls us "friends"
- 25:52 Opportunity and deliverance
- 29:05 Necessary torture devices
- 32:43 No forced sealings
- 36:40 Unique setting to become
- 39:40 It's a battle
- 43:53 Premortal life
- 45:51 Hie to what?
- 49:42 Customized curriculum and full court basketball
- 54:01 Elder Packer's "The Play and the Plan."
- 58:36 Why all the shouting?
- 1:01:58 Excitement over our Second Estate
- 1:05:55 "Here am I, send me."
- 1:09:35 The purpose of suffering
- 1:16:02 End of Part 1 - Dr. Philip Allred
-

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 - Dr. Phllip Allred
- 02:30 A spiritual download
- 05:04 Moses 1 - An overview
- 08:03 A premortal plan
- 12:10 Burning bush, continued?
- 14:54 A vision bigger than imagination
- 20:09 Eternal identity
- 23:47 One thing is unlike the others
- 27:30 Jesus more powerful than the enemy
- 32:05 Satan has to obey
- 34:13 An important conclusion
- 38:21 A "missed" moment with President Oaks
- 41:33 Nevertheless moments matter
- 45:29 Galactic object lesson
- 48:45 Never cease calling on the Lord
- 52:05 What will the Lord do with this world?
- 55:48 A glorified world will include this!
- 58:51 Hank "Because of the Righteousness of Thy Redeemer."
- 1:02:37 Help me, help Your children

- 1:07:36 Testing Center Revelations
- 1:14:48 French climber wisdom
- 1:19:45 End of Part 2 - Dr. Philip Allred

References:

Allred, Philip. "'Lest Thou Forget the Lord:' Moses's Deuteronomic Charge to Remember." "Lest Thou Forget the Lord" | Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/gods-word-our-hearts/lest-thou-forget-lord

Baron, Ross, Rob Eaton, Shon D. Hopkin, and Philip Allred. "Teaching That Leads to Enduring Conversion." Teaching That Leads to Enduring Conversion | Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/vol-25-no-3-2024/teaching-leads-enduring-conversion

Bell, Terry. "Nibley and the Environment Nibley and the Environment - BYU Scholarsarchive." Brigham Young University: Journal of Mormon Studies: BYU Scholars Archive. Accessed December 31, 2025. https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/

Belnap, Daniel L. "'Where Is Thy Glory?' Moses 1, the Nature of Truth, and the Plan of Salvation." "Where Is Thy Glory?" Moses 1, the Nature of Truth, and the Plan of Salvation | Religious Studies Center Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/vol-10-no-2-2009/where-thy-glory-moses-1-nature-truth-plan-salvation

Bergin, Allen. "Eternal Values and Personal Growth: A Guide on Your Journey to Spiritual, Emotional, and Social Wellness." Amazon: Eternal Values and Personal Growth: Allen Bergin. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.amazon.com/Eternal-Values-Personal-Growth-Spiritual/dp/0842525114

Bowen, Matthew L., and Aaron L. Schade. "Moses 1: The Visions of Moses." Moses 1: The Visions of Moses | Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/book-moses/moses-1-visions-moses

"A Christmas Story." IMDb, November 18, 1983. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0085334/

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "98th Annual General Conference: General Conference Archive." Internet Archive: October 1928, January 1, 1970. https://archive.org/details/conferencereport1929a

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "The Instrument of Your Mind and the Foundation of Your Character." BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, July 1, 2024. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/boyd-k-packer/instrument-mind-foundation-character/#:~:text=I%20had%20already%20read%2C%20when,made%2C%20neither%20indeed%20can%20be

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Great Plan of Happiness.” Teaching Seminary: Preservice Readings - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, January 1, 2004 https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teaching-seminary-preservice-readings-religion-370-471-and-475/the-great-plan-of-happiness?lang=eng

Elder Brook P. Hales of the. “Mortality Works!” General Conference October 2024 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 6, 2024. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2024/10/43hales?lang=eng

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Taking Upon Us the Name of Jesus Christ.” General Conference April 1985 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 1985. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1985/04/taking-upon-us-the-name-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Challenge to Become.” General Conference October 2000 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 2000. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2000/10/the-challenge-to-become?lang=eng

Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Think on Christ.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, February 2, 2024. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/ezra-taft-benson/think-christ/#:~:text=Our%20model%2C%20Jesus%20Christ%2C%20walked,Amen.&text=Ezra%20Taft%20Benson%20was%20a,University%20on%201%20October%201983

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “‘Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence.’” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, August 25, 2025. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/jeffrey-r-holland/cast-not-away-therefore-your-confidence/

Elder L. Edward Brown of the Seventy. “‘Pray Unto the Father in My Name.’” General Conference April 1997 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 1997. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1997/04/pray-unto-the-father-in-my-name?lang=eng

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “‘Endure It Well.’” General Conference April 1990 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 1990. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1990/04/endure-it-well?lang=eng

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “‘Willing to Submit.’” General Conference April 1985- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 1985. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1985/04/willing-to-submit?lang=eng

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “‘O, Divine Redeemer.’” General Conference October 1981 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 1981.

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1981/10/o-divine-redeemer?lang=eng

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “An Evening with Neil L. Andersen.” An Evening with Elder Neil L. Andersen. Accessed December 31, 2025. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts/watch/evening-with-a-general-authority/2014/02?lang=eng

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Eye of Faith.” General Conference April 2019 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 1, 2019. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2019/04/25andersen?lang=eng

Elder Paul V. Johnson of the Seventy. “More than Conquerors Through Him That Loved Us.” General Conference April 2011 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2011. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2011/04/more-than-conquerors-through-him-that-loved-us?lang=eng

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Eternal Family.” General Conference October 1996 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 1996. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1996/10/the-eternal-family?lang=eng

Eyring, Henry. “Reflections of a Scientist.” EYRING, HENRY | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/5091094.html?srsltid=AfmBOoomhH-0Kd8DQ1deCxqApL0keruzpoa2rloNftouwfphFxxi7X0r

“The Father and the Son.” The Father and the Son:A Doctrinal Exposition by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles From Improvement Era, Aug. 1916, 934–42; capitalization, punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling standardized., April 1, 2002. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/04/the-father-and-the-son?lang=eng

Ferrell, James L. “The Peacegiver: How Christ Offers to Heal Our Hearts and Our Homes.” FERRELL, JAMES L. | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P4931246.html?srsltid=AfmBOoomuKxxTHvRhiR7dR5osMAR1fKmKNP6tOFgoyjPLOnCbv_FLcW-

Gee, John. “Abrahamic Astronomy.” Abrahamic Astronomy | Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/introduction-book-abraham/abrahamic-astronomy

Godfrey, Kenneth W. “The History of Intelligence in Latter-Day Saint Thought.” The History of Intelligence in Latter-day Saint Thought | Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://rsc.byu.edu/pearl-great-price-revelations-god/history-intelligence-latter-day-saint-thought

"The Great Plan of Happiness." Book of Mormon Teacher Resource Manual - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, January 1, 2004 https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/book-of-mormon-teacher-resource-manual/appendix/the-great-plan-of-happiness?lang=eng

Hawking, Stephen. "A Brief History of Time." Amazon: A Brief History of Time: Stephen Hawking, 1998. https://www.amazon.com/Brief-History-Time-Stephen-Hawking/dp/0553380168

Hinckley, Gordon B., and Mike Wallace. "An Interview with Gordon Hinckley." CBS News. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/an-interview-with-gordon-hinckley/

Jackson, Kent, and Robert Millet. "Studies in Scripture, Vol. 3: Genesis to 2 Samuel." MILLET, ROBERT L.; JACKSON, KENT P. | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/5092804.html?srsltid=AfmBOopejTN60Qi4q17GPki3-FvO6EEZBTPG9FCNt7VkBK2JIAGCrox6

"January 5–11. 'This Is My Work and My Glory': Moses 1; Abraham 3." Come, Follow Me Manual - January 5–11. "This Is My Work and My Glory": Moses 1; Abraham 3, January 1, 2026. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-home-and-church-old-testament-2026/02?lang=eng

Madsen, Truman G. "Line Upon Line: Power from Abrahamic Tests." Meridian Magazine, July 8, 2014. https://latterdaysaintmag.com/article-1-14423/

Maxwell, Neal A. "All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience." MAXWELL, NEAL A. | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/2257016.html?srsltid=AfmBOorxa6m9GMdRPi4IuCDBp_M3qeHPaEDjEppivTZ8AzI-Rf-Pj6xX

Maxwell, Neal A. "We Will Prove Them Herewith." MAXWELL, NEAL A. | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/5090654.html

Milton, John. Paradise Lost (Norton Critical Editions). Accessed December 31, 2025. https://www.amazon.com/Paradise-Lost-Norton-Critical-Editions/dp/0393962938

Muhlestein, Kerry. "Let's Talk About the Book of Abraham." MUHLESTEIN, KERRY | Deseret Book. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.deseretbook.com/product/P5258289.html?srsltid=AfmBOop5lMx2gxgtbrfu_d3xIJduwMOfpfSywIrxF2iYiEzqlB6ild9V

Pace, Glenn L. "Crying with the Saints." BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, February 7, 2025. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/glenn-l-pace/crying-saints/

Peterson, Daniel. “Sic et Non.” quoting Orson Hyde in the Journal of Discourses (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 7:314–15). Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.patheos.com/blogs/danpeterson/author/danpeterson

Pratt, Orson. Millennial Star, volume 28, p. 72–73. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/robert-j-matthews/using-the-scriptures/#:~:text=Or%20to%20speak%20still%20more,to%20live%2C%20with%20body%2C%20parts

President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “2008–An Evening with President Boyd K. Packer.” Media Library - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/collection/evening-with-a-general-authority-2008?lang=eng

President Dallin H. Oaks First Counselor in the First Presidency. “Trust in the Lord.” General Conference October 2019 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 5, 2019. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2019/10/17oaks?lang=eng

President Ezra Taft Benson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Jesus Christ-Gifts and Expectations.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, January 7, 2025. https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/ezra-taft-benson/jesus-christ-gifts-expectations/

President Gordon B. Hinckley Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Rejoice in This Great Era of Temple Building.” General Conference October 1985 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 1985. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1985/10/rejoice-in-this-great-era-of-temple-building?lang=eng

President Henry B. Eyring First Counselor in the First Presidency. “Mountains to Climb.” General Conference April 2012 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2012. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2012/04/mountains-to-climb?lang=eng

President Howard W Hunter President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “The Scriptures: The Most Profitable of All Study.” Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Howard W. Hunter: Chapter 10, January 1, 2015. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-howard-w-hunter/chapter-10-the-scriptures-the-most-profitable-of-all-study?lang=eng

President Russell M. Nelson President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Choices for Eternity.” Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults with Sister Wendy Watson Nelson - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, May 16, 2022. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/broadcasts/worldwide-devotional-for-young-adults/2022/05/12nelson?lang=eng

President Russell M. Nelson President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Think Celestial!” General Conference October 2023 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 1, 2023. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2023/10/51nelson?lang=eng

President Russell M. Nelson President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Stand as True Millennials.” General Conference October 2016 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 1, 2016. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2016/10/young-adults/stand-as-true-millennials?lang=eng

Smith, Hank. “The Righteousness of Your Redeemer.” Ensign College Speeches, November 13, 2025. https://speeches.ensign.edu/devotional/hank-smith-11-2025

Snow, Lorenzo. “1894 April General Conference - ‘The Object of This Probation.’” HISTORICAL GENERAL CONFERENCES. Accessed December 30, 2025. https://historicalgeneralconferences.weebly.com/1894-april.html

Wilcox, S. Michael. “Let Us Ask of God.” Ensign Magazine - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, December 1, 2004. https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2004/12/let-us-ask-of-god?lang=eng

Biographical Information:



Philip A. Allred is a professor and student of ancient scripture and modern prophets. Holding degrees in Political Science (BA, BYU; DA, Idaho State University) and Theology (MA, University of Notre Dame), his scholarly emphases have focused on scriptural text and structure, along with the religious history of European, Mediterranean, and biblical lands (which have personal meaning due to being born in

Turkey). His teaching and curricular emphases are The Eternal Family, Living Prophets, and The Pearl of Great Price. Prior to joining BYU's faculty, he taught for more than 30 years in Seminaries & Institutes and BYU-Idaho where he served as Chair of Religious Education. Philip was also Old & New Testament faculty at the BYU Jerusalem Center (2015-2016). Philip and Jennifer Lindeman met and married as BYU undergrads and they are the grateful parents of three children, including one alumnus of BYU.

Fair Use Notice:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* may make use of copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright holder. This constitutes a "fair use" and any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this podcast is offered publicly and without profit, to the public uses or the internet for comment and nonprofit educational and informational purposes. Copyright Disclaimer under Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976, allowance is made for fair use" for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. In such cases, fair use is permitted.
No copyright(s) is/are claimed.
The content is broadcast for study, research, and educational purposes.
This falls under "Fair Use" guidelines: www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html.

Note:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* is not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nor Brigham Young University. The opinions expressed on episodes represent the views of the guest and podcasters alone. While the ideas presented may vary from traditional understandings or teachings, they in no way reflect criticism of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day leaders, policies, or practices.



Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:00:03	Now we see why we can embrace a mortality and see that it really will work because we have this understanding that we had a loving God who huddled us up and said, I'm in the midst of you. I know you. I know what I can bless you with. I know what you need. This is why I can embrace the craziness of mortality.
Hank Smith:	00:00:27	Hello, everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I'm your host. I'm here with my great and noble co-host, John Bytheway. John, you know where that comes from. Abraham 3, the noble and great ones, which you are.
John Bytheway:	00:00:44	Wow. So are you. Well, I think you recognize something my ancestors have long recognized of the nobility and the greatness. No, I'm just kidding. No, I noticed that too.
Hank Smith:	00:00:57	You are. Speaking of noble and great, John, we have with us Dr. Phil Allred. He's been with us before back when we were doing the New Testament and he is back. Phil, welcome back to followHIM. Thanks for being here.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:01:10	Like a bad penny. I'm grateful.
Hank Smith:	00:01:13	It's like John Bytheway's cat. You cannot get rid of it. Phil, we are very excited to have you. You and I are good friends. We get to see each other at work every day, and I'm excited for the listeners to see you again. Phil, John, over the last five to 10 years, Moses chapter one and Abraham chapter three have become more and more critical. I should say I've seen how critical they are, where before I thought these are great chapters. I memorized some verses from it for scripture mastery. Now I'm going, Wait, wait, wait. This is ... John, you would call it theological dynamite.

John Bytheway:	00:01:49	Yeah, I think there should be a divider in the Pearl of Great Price that says explosives, handle with care or something. Sometimes when people say, how do we get the Book of Abraham? I wanna say, Have you read it? Have you just read it? Because it is so profoundly amazing and doctrinally thick and theologically explosive, like you said. This is exciting to look at it today. I feel the same way, Hank. It's taken me years to go, Wow, this is really important.
Hank Smith:	00:02:20	Absolutely. Phil, when I came to your office to talk about this episode, we both started getting really excited about the blessing that these two chapters are. What have you been thinking of since then?
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:02:33	Well, I've been impressed in preparation. As you're prayerful, knowing this venue and the opportunity, I feel like the Lord has really helped me focus as we will today, not only on the theological dynamite, but also on the very intimate and personal level. While we had this galactic, cosmic view in both chapters, revelations that are just astounding, at the same time, there is this very clear and interweaved, consistent, personal touch by the Lord, with the Lord to each of them, as his sons. I'm excited to tease that out together and to see them run in parallel.
Hank Smith:	00:03:13	Yeah. Just one verse, Moses 1:39 could answer the question that so many children of God on this planet have. Why am I here? Why am I here?
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:03:30	You are my work and glory was the phrase that was very clearly from the Spirit. So it's not, this is my work and glory, that's true. But it was very clear to, no, you are my work and glory. And I love that.
Hank Smith:	00:03:44	That just beautiful to my heart. Yeah. I've said this before. I love the Joseph Smith quote. I'll probably bring it up again. He has made ample provision for your redemption. This is gonna happen.
John Bytheway:	00:03:57	He's good at his work, right Hank? He's good at what he does, thankfully.
Hank Smith:	00:04:04	Wow. Mighty to save.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:04:05	Do you remember it's in the same talk of that great quote with Brittany Nash, where you guys were talking with her about President Benson saying that the thing that's gonna startle us

most is how familiar his face is to us. In the same talk, he says, You will find out we will know that He, the Father, has not left one thing undone so that we could be saved and exalted. So it dovetails with that, and I just, it's one of my favorite phrases anymore is, He has not left one thing undone. I'm so grateful for that.

Hank Smith: 00:04:39 Yeah. John, like I said, Phil was with us year, year and a half ago when we talked about the Book of Hebrews, which is maybe the most difficult book of the New Testament to understand. He walked us through the second half of that beautifully. There might be some new listeners, some people who don't know Phil. What do we know about him? Did you uncover anything in your private investigation?

John Bytheway: 00:05:03 Brother Philip Allred is a professor of church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University Provo, but prior to that, he taught for 30 years in Idaho. He has degrees in political science and theology. How did you do that? Together he and his wife, Jennifer Lindeman are the parents of three children. He got his degrees in political science from Idaho State and BYU and theology at Notre Dame. How wonderful is that? What was that like being at Notre Dame for theology? That must've been wonderful.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:05:42 It was wonderful. To their credit, they were so warm and welcoming to me. They knew I was Latter-day Saint. The real quick thing to say that impressed me most was I had the thicker book, shall we say? Like our, the Quad. There's a lot of scripture in there. Our book is technically thicker than their book, if you will. Yet I found their goodness, their charity, their desire to be parents and family members in beautiful ways and follow the Savior was just really, really impressive. Here I am. I got the bigger book. I don't know that I have even an equal soul with so many that I met there, and it was really humbling and inspiring to me.

Hank Smith: 00:06:26 Wow. Beautiful. Okay, let's get started. I am very excited about these two chapters and how they can bless lives. The Come, Follow Me Manual starts this way. The lesson is entitled that This Is My Work and My Glory. The Bible begins with the words, In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. But what was there before this beginning and why did God create all of this? Through the prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord has shed light on these questions. For example, he gave us the record of a vision in which Abraham saw our existence as spirits before the world was. The Lord also gave us an inspired translation or revision of the first six chapters of Genesis called the Book of

Moses, which doesn't begin with in the beginning. Instead, it begins with an experience Moses had that provides some context for the creation story. Together, these Latter-day Saint Scriptures are a good place to start our study of the Old Testament because they address some fundamental questions that can frame our reading.

00:07:28 Who is God? Who are we? What is God's work and what is our place in it? The opening chapters of Genesis could be seen as the Lord's response to Moses' request. Be merciful unto thy servant, oh God, and tell me concerning this earth and the inhabitants thereof and also the heavens. Wow. Phil, I'm excited to finally start something that you and I started talking about a couple of months ago. What do you wanna do? Where do we wanna go first?

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:07:55 So excited. Let's start in Abraham, even though it follows the book of Moses in our Pearl of Great Price. But I think if we begin there, that will give us the chance to talk premortality, which technically is our earliest beginnings that we are taught about. If we turn to Abraham three, it might be fun to begin with a quick traipse through the entire chapter. As I mentioned at the the outset, to see the personal touches before then seeing the galactic views. Verse one, I, Abraham, had the Urim and Thummim, which is such a interesting thing, of which he then says, the Lord my God had given to me in Ur of the Chaldees. He's received this Urim and Thummim from the Lord earlier. But at this stage in verse two, now I saw using this Urim and Thummim, I saw the stars. He's using this to see like a telescope, I guess in some way.

00:08:50 Right out of the gate, we have the Lord giving him this tool to see things with. In verse three, the Lord said, these are the governing ones. We'll talk about those specifics in a second. The name of the great one is Kolob. Then this, because it is near unto me, for I am the Lord thy God. This is very personal. I got these instruments from the Lord. He said, I am thy Lord. It's all about Abraham. Then we get some more details in five, and then six says, The Lord said to me, now Abraham. And that's really cool because he's using Abraham's name. This is personal. If we skip to verse 11, he says, Thus I Abraham talked with the Lord face to face. In fact, he said, so we don't misunderstand. As one man talketh with another. We all know what that's like.

00:09:36 He told me of the works which his hands had made. Then he said to me, and I love this, My son. My son. And his hand is stretched out. We're moving between the heavens and out beyond, yet it's very intimate. It's very much it's you and me. It's

you and me and it's not just you and me like I'm your God and you're my groveling servant. It's my son. I know your name. This is us. And then 14. It's like Abraham's unfolding these little details as we go along. He says, It was in the nighttime when the Lord spake these words unto me, I will multiply thee and thy seed after thee. Like unto these as if you could number them. Meaning he's seeing the stars, but he's now using the sands as another fit metaphor. Isn't that amazing? Not only are you my son, not only do I know your name, not only am I helping you see things, but I will multiply you and not just you, Abraham.

00:10:37 I will multiply your family. Perhaps some are more familiar than others. In Abraham chapter one, we have this moment where Abraham reveals that he was raised in a very difficult home. It's almost like a Disney movie. Dad's got real issues and mom's gone. You know what I mean? It's just like, what's, it's this classic plot. And not only we'd have no mention of his mother. He obviously had one, but we don't have any information about her. But dad is dangerous. Dad's religion. So in one of the great understatements in all of scripture back in chapter one, he says, In the land of the Chaldeans at the residence of my fathers, I Abraham saw, this is Abraham 1:1, that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence. It's time to go. How understated is that? If you're not sure why, he points you to the picture next door.

00:11:32 If we pause there in verse two of Abraham one, this is where to me this point that the Lord makes is, I will multiply you and your seed. We go to verse two of Abraham one, he says, Finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me. That's why I moved. Okay, my family was, wow, I'm being raised by wolves or something here. Now, he says, I found that there was greater happiness and peace available. So he said, I sought for the blessings of the Fathers, meaning these covenant blessings that had stretched down from Adam all the way down through Enoch, et cetera, And the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same. Then he says, Having been myself a follower of righteousness, but then this, desiring to be one who possessed great knowledge and to be a greater follower of righteousness and to possess a greater knowledge and this key to be a father.

00:12:33 Yes, of many nations, a prince of peace, I wanted instructions. I wanted to keep the commandments. Hence, I became a rightful heir. High priest holding this right belonging to the fathers. Now back to Abraham 3:14, The Lord is showing him this amazing cosmic views, but he's saying, This thing you want, Abraham, I know you. I know you. I know what you wanted. I know what

you missed as a kid. I know what you want to provide that you didn't get. I know that my spirit is upon you in a sense and you get it. I'm promising you I will multiply you and your seed after you. Isn't that stunning?

Hank Smith: 00:13:09 Yeah. There we have in chapter one. This is what I was hoping for. So I went after it and the Lord saying, I can do that.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:13:17 I can do that. I can get you that desire. Isn't that nice? And then he reminds him in 20, The Lord thy God sent his angel to deliver thee from the hands of the priest of Elkenah. That is a reminder that he's been delivered by the Lord before and that in some ways in verse 15, I'm gonna show these things before you go into Egypt. He's mid deliverance right now. He's reminding him, I have delivered you. The Lord has delivered you before. You remember it, you couldn't possibly forget that moment on the lion couch, but he's saying, I will multiply thee and thy seed. You are going into Egypt, which is going to be a dangerous situation and we'll learn more about what Sarah and her trial there. Here's a man who's been delivered. He has a salvation history. He's post deliverance on one hand, but he's also mid deliverance currently and the Lord is promising and saying, Hey, this isn't over yet. The gym experience continues where this is full of torture devices and we're still in process, but he reminds him, we've successfully done this before.

00:14:28 I know who you are. I know what you want and I'm gonna help you get it. So if we go past that just a little bit further and go to 22 where Abraham sees these intelligences and in 23, when he is told about these noble and greats of which John was our sterling member, we see that he said to me- Verse 23, he said unto me, Abraham, thou art one of them, thou wast chosen before thou wast born. I know you. We knew each other. This is like that President Benson statement. We know his face. He's telling him here, even though the veil's still in place, he's saying, Oh, we have a relationship. I know you. All of these stars, all these orbits, if you will, they're all centered in you and me getting you what you really want and me delivering you through all the various things you need help with.

00:15:25 You know, Bob Millet, Robert Millet, such a wonderful Latter-day Saint Scholar for years and continues to be for us, but he in one of his publications had mentioned that in his analysis of the Book of Genesis, that it was quite striking that in the first 11 chapters, you cover such incredible things as the creation and the fall. 2,500 years of history happen in the first 11 chapters. If we were more in our paper scriptures, it's about 16 pages of the book of Genesis. He said, it's as if Moses is trying, he's like in a

		hurry to get to Abraham. We're moving past all of these things to get to Abraham, and then what happens? Genesis slows way down. You've got a great-grandfather, a grandfather, a father, and a grandson in those four. So it's only 22% of Genesis. That's this first 2,500 years and these massive things. But he gets us right to these folks.
Hank Smith:	00:16:19	This is what the story's about. When you think Genesis, you think, oh, Adam and Eve. It's actually, no, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:16:25	It's more about Abraham. It really is. And not just Abraham, what's fun about it, and this is where I think Nephi does such a great job of saying in 1 Nephi chapter four when he's explaining, here's what I'm doing, chapters four, chapter six, particularly, he's saying, My fullness of my intent is to get you to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And it's not just the God of Abraham. It's the God of a grandfather, a father, and a son. It's the God of a generation of family that's really significant to think about his, in verse 14 of Abraham three, I will multiply and thy seed. Look at us. Who are we? We're sitting here doing this podcast. We're all descendants and tied to, either by adoption or by blood, tied to Abraham. We are the fulfillment right now talking about it. We're part of this amazing fulfillment of this blessing that God has given to Abraham and he said, I will do this. But he hadn't done it yet, for Abraham.
Hank Smith:	00:17:24	Elder Bednar said, We were foreordained in the premortal life and born into mortality to fulfill the covenant and promise God made to Abraham. That is who we are. That is why we are here.
John Bytheway:	00:17:39	He also said, and I love this, that one of the reasons they want missionaries to get their patriarchal blessing first is to see that and to read that. I'm paraphrasing, going on a mission isn't something you do as much as something you are because you are Abraham's seed.
Hank Smith:	00:17:55	I'm interested, Phil and John, in how you both have seen this. Phil, you talked about watch for the personal, but the context of the chapter is very cosmic, right? It's stars and planets and galaxies. Stunning. How have you seen that play out in scripture and in your own lives that we have a, an incredible Savior who can both say, Look, here is who I am. And it's big. It's, it's very, very big. And at the same time, I can be personal with you. That duality is so important.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:18:35	I couldn't agree more. Partly what has impressed me about the scriptures is that duality, as you say, this consistent reminder

that he is the God of the universe, but that he only brings that up in a sense, I think, to inspire us to believe him. It's almost like he's in a constant credibility battle. Like, Hey, can we just kind of think about who I really am here and I'm really trying to help you, but you keep listening to these little voices over here and that this is, they're not gonna bless your life, but I can do that. In some ways, he suffers a bit of an image issue because of this need to establish, Hey, look, I do have power. I can do my work. I am able to do my work, as we said. That means I am this galactic presence, and yet what's it all for?

00:19:26 The whole point of it, the, the telos, if you will, of it, this eventual outcome or end, the whole point and purpose of it was this immortality and eternal life of you. You and your family and the seed that will come from. All of that is the point. So I just, I'm so grateful for that. I hope that's coming through. I hope that comes through always as we read scripture.

Hank Smith: 00:19:51 And you can't forget either. You'll miss a part of him that is crucial. John, you might not remember since you've written so many books, but I shouldn't laugh at that, but you've written a lot of books. You wrote a book called Sermons in a Sentence. I just wanted to read a page of that. It says, you wrote, We are accustomed to speaking of our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in King James English. We pray in thees, thys and thous, scriptural pronouns that provide a bit of distance, a verbal reverence that is appropriate and comfortable. Perhaps this is why Nephi's intimate phrase, My Jesus stands out. Nephi lost his father and was hated by his brother, so for him, the Savior was both infinite as the universe and as intimate as a friend. James Farrell has written Jesus' work on our behalf is at once infinite and is so big that he offers redemption to all and yet so small that he offers redemption to me.

00:20:49 Let me bring in one more witness, if that's okay. This is Elder Neal A. Maxwell. He says, I testify that he, this is Jesus, is utterly incomparable in what he is, what he knows, what he has accomplished, and what he has experienced. Yet movingly, he calls us his friends. Now listen to this. In intelligence and performance, so in what he knows and what he's done, he far surpasses the individual and the composite capacities and achievements of all who have lived, live now, and will yet live. So put all of us together, all of what we know and have done, and he far surpasses the collective. He rejoices in our genuine goodness and achievement. He probably thinks it's adorable. I remember hearing Henry J. Eyring, basically a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. He said, When I go into my lab, the Lord must think it's just cute. Look at me with my little chemistry set.

He really, really is proud of me. Then Elder Maxwell goes on and says, But any assessment of where we stand in relation to him tells us we do not stand at all. We kneel.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:22:06 We're gonna see it again in Moses one, this confidence we can have in him because of his power, his ultimate power, but also the comfort along with the confidence, the comfort that he cares, the comfort that we matter to him, the comfort that somehow little old me is worth all that he has done and is doing and will yet do for us. In fact, to that end, let's take a look at verse 12 again in Abraham three. Again, I'm kind of deliberately skipping all of the cosmic stuff. It's not that that's not significant, but when you had Kerry Muhlestein on four years ago, and I would highly recommend our listeners, that really fantastic from an Egyptologist, right? Kerry and I are dear friends and spent the year in Israel together teaching at the Jerusalem Center. It was remarkable. He really does a great job of talking through the cosmology, et cetera, I defer in many ways to that discussion.

00:23:00 Not that we won't talk about any of it, but that you do have those wonderful resources that followHIM provided there in this four years ago with Kerry. But looking at verse 12, He, the Lord said to me, my son, my son, his hand was stretched out. Then notice this, I will show you all these, and then I stopped short of the next line. He put his hand on my eyes. He physically touched me and my eyes, and then I could now see what I could see was multiplied. To be able to think celestial as President Nelson enjoined the church, there is a way that the Lord can place his hand upon us and allow us to see what it is about us, about our families, about the environs, about the cosmos. He can help us see. It reminded me of Elder Howard W. Hunter's great statement. Remember when he said, Whatever Jesus lays his hands upon lives, and that if Jesus lays his hands on a marriage, it lives. He says, If he's allowed to lay his hands on a family, it lives. I would add to this that the living is in process. Sometimes we'll look at what's going on right now and we think it's the end of the game. We think the clock is over and that we're keeping score today and it's done. It didn't work. Instead of saying, No, no, no. Like he says in verse 15 to Abraham or in 14, I will multiply thee, I will multiply it. That's a future thing. Thy seed after thee. You're gonna go into Egypt in 15. You've got a life, you're still living. These promises are gonna be yet fulfilled. We spoke together about Hebrews chapter 11 last time when I was privileged to be with you.

00:24:44 One of those great passages in Hebrews 11 was that Abraham and Sarah, who only get one child between them, they said that

they saw themselves as strangers and pilgrims on the earth. They recognized that this earth, which he's now seeing in the cosmic context of all, of everything, Kolob and you know, that this earth is not the place of fulfillment. This earth is the place for the promises to be made, but to be seen afar off. I'm quoting from verse 13 of Hebrews 11, that they saw them afar off and they were persuaded of them. And then this amazing phrase, they embraced them, which to me suggests some probably ritual aspects to when these promises are made to us. But as we go into the temples and in sacred ways, we get embraced in this promise making, promise giving opportunity that we then leave the temple and go back to our homes and what do we find?

00:25:52 Well, we find incompleteness. We find difficulties. We find heartbreaking things. We find joys, yes. But, amid them, we find opportunity if we're not careful to doubt the Lord, His power and His promise that he will. But we've gotta remember we're mid-deliverance. We're mid-deliverance. Could I share one cool thing? I think this is just so beautiful. Allen Bergen, who was part of the faculty at BYU for years, in his book called Eternal Values and Personal Growth. This is back in 2002. He shares about this woman that he counseled. Her name was Laura. She struggled with many things. I just thought this was beautiful. He had a dream, and he said, I was attending a picnic with friends and family, and a large number of people had gathered near the food tables. I saw my friend Laura standing and holding my infant son in her arms.

00:26:47 He was snuggled up to her with his head cradled against her neck. I was thinking how sweet the scene was. When suddenly it seemed as though the trees and fields behind them opened up and I could see into the far distance. I no longer saw the mortal Laura, nor my son. Rather, I saw a different Laura in a celestial setting. She was standing in a somewhat elevated position, and below her were numberless people, almost as far as the eye could see. I perceived through the spirit that they were her children, her eternal offspring. Most of them seemed to be adults, and they were reverencing her. It was an incredible exquisite sight. Though I recognized Laura, she did not look the same as the friend I had seen here on the earth. She looked regal, but not regal in an earthly sense. Her appearance, her stature, her poise, and the look on her face had a refinement, dignity, and power I had never before experienced. She was perfectly serene. She was utterly radiant. There was an infinite peace in her countenance and manner. Her deep joy in the situation was total. There was a sense of absolute security and complete fulfillment.

	00:28:08	This is incredible, right? So the last couple things he said, I think you're so beautiful. Since Laura had previously confided to me many strong feelings of inadequacy and anxiety, I found the contrast striking. It was as though I was seeing her eternal identity unfettered by her mortal deficiencies. Then he said this to conclude, This experience had a tremendous impact on me and on my perception of human beings. I was especially affected by the incredible inconsistency between the brilliant eternal personality I had perceived with this conflicted, distressed, mortal person I had known and counseled. This is the God who works with each of us, who is powerful to save and promise, but for whom is working to comfort us in the meantime, mid-deliverance. Pre-promises all being fulfilled. I love this God. I'm so grateful for him and the hopes I have in him for my family and my hopes and dreams amidst the mortality that is strewn with the needed, you know, torture devices of the gym.
Hank Smith:	00:29:24	The needed torture devices.
John Bytheway:	00:29:27	I'm still thinking of this verse you gave some emphasis to, verse 14, and I think that's what you just did. I will multiply thee. Of all the things that Abraham wanted or that we could want or should want, is it, I will give thee many motor homes? Nope, that's not it. What is it that you would want? It's posterity. It's children who will rise up and call you blessed one day. The picture that what you just read, he saw her serenity. I love that.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:29:58	We're not totally alone in the world, in that the Lord has shared with His people throughout time that they're, you know, this same vision of things. And we see vestiges, if you will, even though that dispensations have come and gone. The afterlife model for us is a structured heaven, right? It's organized and ordered. Exaltation is available through the means of eternal marriage, the new and everlasting covenant of marriage, in fact. Now, there are certain Hindu traditions in which spouses may be bonded across reincarnations. Obviously, this is kind of a different way of seeing it, future lives as reincarnations. Their afterlife model is cyclical reincarnation until they reach a point of total non-attachment. We obviously depart there. But there is some interesting notion with some of these Hindu traditions that there's this bonding of spouses. There are Chinese folk religions, it turns out, that have ancestors featuring as a main part of their family line.
	00:31:01	There's a spirit world parallel, in fact, to earthly life that will continue post that has this expectation that there would be some family association. In fact, Shinto, I had the privilege of

serving the Lord for a couple years in the mission field formally in Japan. I became a little familiar with some of the Japanese religions. In the Shinto beliefs, the dead become household gods and they stay connected. They're right there and they have a big butsudan, they have a big, looks like a big armoire in their rooms and they have the shrine to their ancestors. They're with them. They don't have a sharply defined heaven, fair enough, but there is a continuity and presence that is expected. So it's fun to see this. And of course, the example of par excellence, right, is ancient Egypt. The Egyptians, and of course here, Abraham is intersecting with Egypt.

00:31:54 Spend some time there. Moses, of course, is raised in many ways in Egypt, et cetera. So both of our chapters really have this strong Egyptian connection. That's all over. In Egypt, the Book of the Dead and all of the tombs and everything, you see this expectation of reuniting with your spouse that paradise is similar to being perfected, having an earthly life that's now perfected. Almost like the discussion you had with Brittany Nash in section 130 about the same sociality. It's gonna be coupled with eternal glory instead of the approximate mortal life we're having. That's kind of interesting, isn't it, that there are some vestiges of this notion, but that currently, the fullest perhaps understanding we have, and we don't know much. But what we do know is family, family, family. That's wonderful.

John Bytheway: 00:32:43 Everything you've just said says that people yearn for that and want that. I think that's in all of us. How could it be heaven without Kim for me? You know, I gotta. Do I get to keep her? Yeah. Does she get to keep me? Will she want to keep me? is a harder question.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:32:59 That is the big question. Elder Robert D. Hales once said, We have to live in such a way that our families want to live with us for eternity. I was like, Oh, that's a great point. President Oaks recently, of course, talking about no forced sealings. Every sealing will be this congenial, this is what I want. So I'm with you.

John Bytheway: 00:33:23 You guys remember Elder Glenn Pace. He spoke at BYU once and he talked about a couple of parents and kids in a beat up station wagon and seeing a guy go by with his boat and well, they're not really happy. And he said the kids were like, yeah, there goes another unhappy fellow dad, right? But he said, we're beat up in a station wagon with a bumper sticker that says families are forever and people don't know if that's a boast or a complaint.

Hank Smith:	00:33:52	That's funny.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:33:53	Oh, that is so great.
Hank Smith:	00:33:54	Yeah. We hope it's a central missionary message and then some people think, that's your offering? No, thanks. Yeah. Is that a must? Is that required?
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:34:06	That's what's so important about the gospel of Jesus Christ is to recognize that mortality is the time that we experience, in a sense, the crucible where we are stretched on purpose. Then to see family touted by the restored gospel of Jesus Christ as this ultimate epitome of heaven, to see that, but then to know that, yeah, but my family's a mess. My family's dysfunctional. I mean, my wife's family struggled with difficulties that, you know, I shudder to think about what they went through. So many, Abraham himself, nearly at the behest of his father or at least a complicit, child sacrifice.
John Bytheway:	00:34:43	That's a dysfunctional family.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:34:46	It turns out, right? This is why I needed another place of residence, right? It is a very interesting faithful navigation that the Lord is encouraging us to go on, to see promises yet ahead, but to see very and oftentimes painful effects of the fall playing out right now. So I'll play with this analogy for a second. If I were to go into a gym, which I try to do sometimes, I'm working on it, right? But if I go into the gym and I walk in, I go up to the front desk and I say, Hey, could you point to where the chocolate fountain is? I think you're in the wrong place. I know. Okay. Okay. Maybe that's Tuesdays. That person at the desk is gonna say, did you read this sign on your way in here? GYM, that none of those say chocolate, none of those say pillows.
	00:35:36	Well, but they would say to us, they would say, all we have here are torture devices. It's literally all we have in the gym. Lots of painful things for you. And we got trainers who are gonna yell at you and tell you to tear your muscles and you know what I mean, and get out of breath and sweat and, you know what I mean? And that's success. If you went to the gym and you tore your muscles and you, you know, well, you did it, you did it right. I think it's a fit metaphor for mortality. We walked in here and remember, it said, it said fallen world here. It said mortality, which is not eternity, but it is exceedingly significant that we come and tear muscles here so that when the healer, the Healer, not only internally the way he's designed our bodies, to use this metaphor, but when the Healer, right, with healing in his wings rises, the Son, to quote Malachi, He can now make a

physique, make a character, make a daughter of God, make a son of God like Laura was seen by Dr. Bergen. But it means I have to see the telos of mortality.

00:36:40 I have to see the object and end and the point of mortality so that when my family is struggling, and in that great talk by President Oaks, that watershed address in 2000 called the Challenge to Become, where he said, family is unique setting in which this becoming can happen. I don't know, does that speak to your experiences as well?

Hank Smith: 00:37:04 Yeah, I would ask you a question. You teach, at BYU, you teach a cornerstone class, so it's a required class called the Eternal Family. What has that been like in recent years with the young adults that are coming through? They were born after the Proclamation on the Family, in fact, long after a lot of them, 10 years after the proclamation.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:37:25 Yeah. It's been really interesting to watch the reactions over time because we're all of a vintage, can we say? We're of a vintage that when the proclamation was given, I'm guessing you had the same reaction that we did, which is, did we have to make a proclamation about that?

Hank Smith: 00:37:44 It's like they said, We gotta proclaim that the sky is blue and the trees are green. Okay.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:37:51 It was pretty wild, right? But it didn't take long, within a decade or so that we saw social trends in which, as we learned from Elder Andersen talking about quoting from President Nelson's own experience and being part of the apostolic group that felt inspired and wrote the document that they could see, as Sheri Dew has said, they could see around corners. In fact, President Nelson is quoted by Elder Andersen as saying, we could see it all coming. We could see it all coming. So to your question, I have been watching because I've had the privilege of teaching this course for nearly two decades now in its BYU Idaho pre-eternal family form and its current form now adopted by church education worldwide. But I've watched students in the cultural zeitgeist in the waters they're swimming in. I've watched them get nervous, like, wait, what are you saying?

00:38:46 'Cause this is so different than everything else I'm hearing. To a kind of a come back and seeing, yeah, we saw that, heard that, and I watched people that I know, maybe siblings, aunts, uncles, or whatever, chase after that, and I'm seeing a resurgence of, oh, yeah. We've seen the law of harvest playing out and seeing

		the philosophies of men playing out in people's lives. I'm seeing more students who are saying, oh, give me the pure doctrine.
John Bytheway:	00:39:15	Reminds me of President Gordon B. Hinckley, was it 60 minutes? Why is the church successful? Well, we serve as an anchor in a world of shifting values. Didn't he say something like that?
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:39:27	Yeah. Yeah, yeah, that's great.
John Bytheway:	00:39:29	We are searching some of us what... Give me some absolute truth. Can you give me an anchor somewhere that I can tie to? And that's maybe what the proclamation does.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:39:40	Yeah, I think it does. I've been heartened by the students' reactions. It's a battle. This may be a perfect place to talk about something that I think is significant about Abraham and Moses, and that is what they experience, right? We read the scriptures and I know we all feel like, oh, I wish I could have done that. I wish I could have experienced that. I wish that was me. I want him to lay his hands on me and be able to see. I want him to tell me that I will multiply thee, and I want him to send an angel to get me off the lion couch. It doesn't take too long of honest reflection to realize we actually do have our own salvation histories. There are those moments. Don't forget that we take a record if we're wise, we make a record of when the deliverances have come.
	00:40:29	Now, a side point to this that I think is significant is, as I was thinking about this moment, I feel like the Lord inspired me to think of it this way. I work with these students, as we all do, and encourage them that all of this information is independently verifiable. I can read it. There's a book here, but remember Joseph Smith warned, he said, look, you gotta go to God and get your own knowledge. You can't get it out of books. The books are a catalyst, shall we say. I'm reading about Abraham here and we'll be reading momentarily about Moses, but that's their story, that's their story. That's not my story. The Lord very much wants us to individually connect with him, not just by proxy. It's too easy to read by proxy, either our parents or in the scriptures or whatever and go, well, okay, I guess I gotta just trust that.
	00:41:23	And instead of saying, no, the invitation there should be curiosity. They experienced this? Well, what would it take for me? I want to know. Nephi listening to his father's dream and saying, well, I wanna see that. I wanna know. Praying and having his heart soften right there in 1st Nephi chapter two, way before he ever gets these big visions. They are their experiences

and we can learn things from them, but they should be invitations to our own faith and study approach that I can independently verify these things are true. And I would just wanna add a quick witness. I read the Book of Mormon in preparation to serve a mission. It wasn't until Helaman or so, and I hesitate to even share this, but at times, I mean, this is my witness. I get to Helaman. I'm unsuspecting because I've just been reading and thinking, okay, I should know these things. I get to Helaman 5 and here comes this mob in to take out these two missionaries that are in prison.

00:42:20 This whole scene, I have the most remarkable experience. It's better than a vision, but I have a witness that it was real and it happened in a better way than if I had seen a YouTube Book of Mormon YouTube video of it, not a recreation, but the actual video. I had something happen that I can't totally describe, and it's the same thing that's happened to you guys, and everybody else who has submitted themselves to the process of study and faith, that something happened that's not a story. These are not characters. And I get it, we may use that language here and there haphazardly. I refuse to use those words. I do not ever talk about Nephi and his brother Lehi in this case in Helaman 5. I don't talk about Moses and Abraham and Sarah and Sarai. I don't talk about Mary. I don't talk about any of them as if they're a story or a character because I have independently verified that I'm going to meet them one day.

00:43:24 They are people and I can't wait to ask them questions. I'm curious about their lives. I'm like, how buff was Nephi? Like how serious? No, okay. I know. I'm just joking, but I want, there's things I want to know, right? But that they are real and that these experiences happen to them independently verifiable for each one of us. I am grateful and cheerfully submit that I have a witness of that and I look forward to meeting them.

Hank Smith: 00:43:53 Phil, one thing you and I talked about a month or two ago as we were discussing this lesson was how crucial our doctrine of a pre-mortal life is. This is actually very unique and very important, more important than I thought.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:44:09 Yeah, exactly. In fact, we mentioned that I was at the University of Notre Dame for some theological studies, and I remember asking a rabbi. I took a class on Judaism. We had a rabbi who was a marvelous instructor, and I remember he had a thing where we would be able to write a question down before class and put it on the board, and we'd take turns. I wrote the question about the preexistence. I said, What's the Jewish notion of premortal life? It was really interesting because, of

course, that's an esoteric term. I should have known that's a Latter-day Saint term. I didn't do preexistence. That would have been, you know, but I thought I'd done better with premortal life, but of course, he just read it as premortal life. Well, that's the life we're in right now because we're, we haven't died yet.

00:44:52 You know, it's like, ah, great. But as I was able to circle back around and explain, there's this sense of like, yeah, that's not really, that, no. In fact, even the logos, you know, notion for Christianity, John 1, et cetera, there's really not a lot of understanding about that this is a thing. You can even look at commentaries on Jeremiah 1:5, Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee Jeremiah. You're just not going to get much there. Acts chapter 17, Deuteronomy 32, you're going to have these passages that we like as Latter-day Saints because we do have prophetic commentary and restoration scripture that helps us with this, including here in Abraham 3. But if you don't have those, it's fairly opaque for our brothers and sisters without the restored scriptures and restored prophets. As we talk about that, maybe we can set it up a little bit by deferring to the extended discussion of this with Kerry Muhlestein, who did such a marvelous job.

00:45:51 But let's take a look at Kolob and take a look at the stars really quick, just to seed then the premortality for a second, because this is how the Lord sets it up for Abraham. In Abraham three here, verse two, that there is one of these stars that he sees that's nearest to the throne of God. If you skip over to verse 16, you get this notion of, oh, the greatest, their Kolob is the greatest of all these Kokaubeam, all these stars, all these special ones. Kolob, a sense, if we did a Miller's analogy, Kolob is to X. Well, here we would say, Kolob is to Jesus. Kolob is to Jehovah. Kolob is to the Son of God. He is this governing one. He is the one closest to God, et cetera. Before we turn the pages over to the later verses in Abraham three, we have this interesting distinction of one, Jesus Jehovah, the Son of God is this one.

00:46:47 Now, this one is also among others. Kolob is to Jehovah. The stars are to the noble and great ones. Recognizing that and saying, oh, well, there's an interpretive tool that there's a metaphor going here that the Savior is trying to help him understand his deliverer. He's also helping him understand who he is and confidence in himself and his potential. And he does this with all these analogies of motions and stars, et cetera. And it's just this big extended object lesson. It's an object lesson that is transformative. There's a transformative arc that is laid out before to say, oh yeah, there are differences, but these differences are bridgeable. These differences are transcendable.

It's an exciting object lesson to say, oh, so we're gonna take you from where you used to be and when you used to be. And we're gonna now shoot you through, if you're willing, right, we're gonna shoot you through this amazing transformative conversion in Christ to become one of these. You started with opportunity and with some capacities for this, and we're now going to set up a plan by which everyone who is willing can funnel through this amazing plan of salvation, plan of happiness, plan of exaltation.

00:48:07 So if we read verse 22, I, the Lord, now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was. And among all these, there were many of the noble and great ones. There's that clear tie-in with what he's been seeing cosmically as the object lesson. Then God saw, now it shifts from the vision that he's giving Abraham. It shifts to now God as if in the first place, describing what happened to God. God saw these souls. Now it's not Abraham seeing. Now it's shifting to, oh, God amidst these souls saw that they were good. He saw potential. He saw great goodness, opportunity, and he stood in the midst of them. Again, we're in the cosmic realm, but this is very personal. He's standing in the midst. He's not standing apart. Think of the beauty of like, no, he's right in the middle of them.

00:49:00 Okay, guys. So it's almost got his arms around him and said, okay, all right, here we are guys. Here we go team. And it's this really fun moment where he says, okay, I got things for you to do. You have things to do. Again, here's your assignment. This is how we're gonna coordinate this. We're gonna do that. He says to Abraham. Isn't this so beautiful? He says, Abraham, get this, you are one of them. You were there with me. I was doing this with you. It's just so beautiful. Then we learned there as we go forward, I wanna pause on this first estate. We go from there, verses 24 and 25, there's the one that's among them like unto God. This is Kolob, a.k.a. Jesus Jehovah. And he says, We're gonna go down, there's space there, we're gonna take these materials. This is the job.

00:49:42 Go team, go team. And what are we gonna do? We're gonna go create an earth. We're gonna go make this place. This is the next sphere of improvement and progression. We're gonna make this place so you can dwell on it. And the job here is, verse 25, we're gonna prove you to see if you're gonna do everything that the Lord, their God would command them. This is described here as a proving ground. This is the gym, if you will. This is the torture devices, all right? We're gonna run you through. And it suggests that God knew in advance a highly

customized training path for each of us. Pretty customized curriculum for mortality for each of us. Therefore, as we get into the gym, we have to be careful not to look sideways at somebody working on a particular machine or a particular muscle group or something and say, well, they're dumb, they're weak. Or alternatively, to look at them and go, look how strong they are and this is easy for them and everything.

00:50:40 When I'm working on my machine or I'm getting this exercise and my trainer is taking me through these, it's so easy to be comparative rather than to be charitable and recognize, oh, they're going through this customized curricula of mortality as part of the transformative arc from premortality into that future state of where we'll end today in Moses 1:39, that immortality and eternal life. I just felt like I should share with you a very interesting thing that happened to me in the mission field. This is years ago, but it's remained indelibly etched in my mind. I was a newer missionary. I didn't know Japanese very well. I was assigned a missionary that'd been out about a year or so. For whatever reason, this missionary had struggled with the rules. It felt a little bit like, why can't we play full court basketball? Like, that's dumb.

00:51:29 You know what I mean? It was, why can't we do that? Understandably. I mean, I looked at that and went, good one. I haven't a clue why we can't do that. I'm with you. I didn't disagree, but it kind of was a bother to him. Now, to his credit, he's there, he's working, but he's got these questions, it's bugging him. And we had a few conversations in the first few days that we're companions where I can see that he's, this is really frustrating to him. I don't know how to answer him and I don't have the answers, but I was a little more comfortable with just keeping the rules for whatever reason. As I remember it, I was down doing dishes. We had this little two-story apartment with four elders in it, and I was doing dishes or something with breakfast, and he was in another room doing his scripture study.

00:52:11 And he yells at me, he goes, Allred, Allred. He says, Get in here. I'm like, Whoa, what's going on? So I go in there and he's got his scriptures open and he says, I get it. I get it. I'm like, well, okay. What do you get? What are you talking about? He says, look, check this out. And he reads verse 25. He says, look, we will prove them herewith. That they're gonna do everything that God will ask them. And then he said this, I have memorized this because it was so crazy. He says, Allred, look, if to get saved, God said every day at noon, you had to stand on your head in the corner and recite the articles of faith backwards. Would you

do it? I'm sitting there going, in my mind, the acrobatics of, what?

Hank Smith: 00:52:56 That would be hard.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:52:58 He said, seriously, if that's what God said, you gotta do this to be saved, would you do it? And I was like, well, yeah, I very much wanna be saved, please. I would do it. And he's like, that's why. That's why we can't play full court basketball. And I was like, okay, I'm, I get where you're going. And it worked. And I'll tell you what, we had such a great companionship. He dug in, he worked hard, he was so charitable to me. We had some really, really remarkable experiences finding and teaching people because he was like, okay, I'm in. Whatever God asks, I get the point. I see what we're doing here. I was very impressed and, and appreciated his perspective. It blessed me. I admire him to this day for what he could see. He read the scripture and let the Spirit teach him.

00:53:54 He's having these questions and everything. And then when the Spirit did provide an answer, he ran with it. He accepted it and he ran with it. I'm very proud of him and it blessed my life. And this is Boyd K. Packer when he gave this address in 2008 to the religious educators. This is those evenings with the general authority. He said this, he says, don't let a student, or shall we say, don't let a friend, don't let a family member leave your class or leave your conversation without knowing that there is a premortal existence. If he doesn't, or she doesn't know it, how can they make sense of mortality? In fact, he goes on, mortality just is not fair. If you look at it realistically, I'm quoting the apostle, mortality just isn't there if you look at it realistically. Some people were born with limitations physically or mentally.

00:54:46 There's little chance of doing much. How can that be fair? Well, the apostle says, If you see the whole scope of things, the premortal existence, we have lived forever. There never was a beginning. Earth life is one of the chapters in the book of life that we are writing and living. Post-mortal existence goes on forever. It will never end. If we know that, we can have a little more patience and we will know more. And then he said, They must know that.

John Bytheway: 00:55:23 I love verse 25. I think it's one of the most clarifying verses of all. I will prove them to see if they will do all things. Agency is implied in there. What's the famous story about Hugh B. Brown? Somebody asked him, Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? 'Cause God knew he would do it. President Hugh B. Brown's answer was because Abraham needed to learn

something about Abraham. Sometimes I would like to add after it to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them, even if it doesn't make sense. Sometimes I kind of wanna add that. Because I think about playing basketball in your mission or keeping the word of wisdom when you have no idea about nicotine or what all those things, keeping the word of wisdom in 1845, right? You have no idea about those reasons, and I think it's kind of a slippery slope if we, well, I will do all things the Lord commands as soon as I know every single reason for every single commandment. That's probably not the best idea.

00:56:28 Boyd K. Packer gave another talk in 1995 called The Play and the Plan. He divided our existence into a three act play. He said, Act one, the premortal existence, you were brilliant in that place, but the curtain's been drawn, you don't remember a thing. And then he said, Act two is characterized by four T words, tests, trials, temptations, and even tragedies. And then he said, Nowhere in act two appears the line happily ever after. That's reserved only for act three. And then he said this, I mean, it's just the profound statements, don't suppose that God causes that which for his own purposes He permits. Whoa, slow down and chew on that one. That is maybe why Elder Maxwell called the premortal existence a wonderful flood of light. You get to see it from 30,000 feet and back up and see act two as temporary, and you see the post-mortal spirit world, kingdoms of glory all of the sudden it's a lot easier to take the test, trials, temptations, and tragedies, and we say it so easily. Have an eternal perspective. Yeah. Take that off and it changes everything.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:57:53 Love it. Thank you.

Hank Smith: 00:57:55 John, I like what you said there. This is right out of the Come, Follow Me Manual. We know very little about our premortal life, but much of what we do know comes from Abraham three. It says, Why are these truths valuable to you? What difference do they make in your life? It is huge for just one reason. I think Elder Packer said this same thing, which is, this life is so hard. One thing I frequently have to remind myself and others is, we signed up for this. Like, this was not forced upon us. We were given a choice, and I'm sure it was an informed choice.

John Bytheway: 00:58:36 Phil mentioned the verse from Jeremiah and all the sons of God shouted for joy. And I remember Elder Maxwell saying something like, now that we're here, we wonder what all the shouting was about.

Hank Smith:	00:58:49	Like, wait, this is a lot harder than I thought. Yeah. It's like, hmm.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:58:57	As you say that, I think about this personalized view. Like, he's standing in the midst of us as we got there in 23. If you see the team or the arms around, okay, we're huddling, this is what we're gonna do. In that pre-planned way, there is great comfort in the premortal life that while we do have the veil pulled, which I think has a significant role yet to play in a merciful judgment someday, which I'm intrigued by, but this idea has been taught by the prophets. President Nelson in his Stand as Millennials talk, he said, a true millennial is one who taught and was taught the gospel of Jesus Christ premortally, and who made covenants there with our Heavenly Father about courageous things, even morally courageous things that he or she would do while here on the earth. Then he made a promise, as you know, President Nelson is so marvelous at making these promises that when you begin to catch even a glimpse of how your heavenly Father sees you and what he is counting on you to do for Him, your life will never be the same.
	01:00:04	As we look at the sources for what we get that information, patriarchal blessings are amazing that they may not say anything specific about premortality, they might, but that as we read them, we get glimpses of what is possible, that God is offering these promises that are yet ahead, mid-deliverance, fair enough, but that are going to be fulfilled in their fullness one day. In fact, President Lorenzo Snow said, had we not kept what is called our first estate, and that language is here in verse 26, Abraham three. So he says, they who keep, after this proving verse that we talked about in verse 25, they who keep their first estate in verse 26 will be added upon. Again, there's this transformative arc. Yes, you're much lower, infinitesimally smaller than the Lord or others and certainly Father. Okay, fine, but you can be added upon. That's why the laws are given so that this can be added upon in us.
	01:01:06	He says, back to President Snow's quote, had we not kept what is called our first estate and observed the laws that governed there, well, you and I would not be here today. We are here because we are worthy to be here. That arises to a great extent, at least from the fact that we kept our first estate, right? And that's just so comforting, right? It's like, oh, apparently I did this well once. Maybe I'm struggling right now with God's laws, but I apparently killed it in premortality. I nailed it. President Snow continues, he says, I believe that when you and I were in yonder life, we made certain covenants with those that had the control, that in this life when we should be permitted to enter it, we

would do what we had done in that life, which he said is, find out the will of God and conform to it.

Hank Smith: 01:01:58 Mm-hmm. Wow. I wonder that, Phil and John, when we read that verse that John pointed out, and we will prove them herewith to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord God shall command them. I wonder if part of that maybe could be rephrased, we will make an earth and we will prove to see if you will choose to go to earth. Awesome. That's a fun way to think of it. Will you keep your first estate? Well, let's make an earth and find out. Let's find out if you will choose. Instead of that verse being scary, like, oh man, I don't know if I'm doing it. No, you did. You proved that you believed and by going.

John Bytheway: 01:02:38 Recently, I got to Zoom with the Adriatic, I think it was the Adriatic North Mission, President and Sister Cordray. He told his missionaries, these people already chose the Father's plan once. And I thought, well, everybody on Earth already chose the Father's plan. And that was like, oh, yeah, that's true. As we think about approaching people, they already made an excellent choice once. Already had an excellent time in act one. Now the curtain's been drawn, just tell them who they are that they already chose once, tell them that this life's the test, trials, temptations, tragedies, but it's temporary. And we signed up for it. We knew it was gonna happen. The question of what does it mean to know about a premortal existence? How do you overstate how important that is?

Hank Smith: 01:03:31 So true, right? It's just awesome. If you believed that you were created at birth, you did not exist before this, you came into a life that is, think of India in the 500s, a lot of suffering, and a short life, and a lot of suffering, and you might think...

John Bytheway: 01:03:52 That was pointless.

Hank Smith: 01:03:56 Yeah. What, what was that about? Like, and you're there saying, Oh, God, maybe someone's saying God loves you. I can see why someone would say, I don't believe in God.

John Bytheway: 01:04:06 Yeah. Or why somebody would say, Life is hard and then you die and not, and that's it. And oh, take off the blinders and see the big picture. That's the flood of light.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:04:19 We don't see the transformative right role that hardship plays. If somehow we've bought into that we didn't come into a gym and this is actually supposed to quote be heaven, this isn't the training ground for heaven. If we've, if we misperceive that and

mismeasure this experience, then that's exactly the card the adversary plays over and over and over incessantly when inequities, unfairnesses, pains and sufferings, balding, I might add, happen. I see you two have not had to suffer that indignity in your mortality.

Hank Smith: 01:04:53 Hey, you look good. There's a few perfect heads in the world. God put hair on the rest.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:04:58 Oh, this is good. It's a good thing. But it really does play into the adversary's hands to misperceive what mortality really is. I see it all the time. In fact, I think this is a pretty cool point of Elder Neal A. Maxwell. We were extolling his virtues earlier. Well, let's continue with something he said, and he's gonna quote an earlier apostle on this as well. Quote, here's Neal A. Maxwell from All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience. He says, one day we will understand fully how complete our commitment was in our first estate, in accepting the very conditions of challenge in our second estate, about which we sometimes complain about in this school of stress. He then said, our collective and personal premortal promises will then be laid clearly before us. Premortal promises, conditions, opportunities. We had a vision. What does the Proverbs say where there is no vision the people perish?

01:05:55 We had an understanding, a vision of this. Otherwise, if in verse 28, right, so if you're in Abraham three, let's do 27, having explained that if we kept this first estate, we could have glory added on our heads. If we would keep the second estate, then it would be added on our heads forever and ever. Then the Lord says in verse 27, whom am I gonna send? He has to offer the opportunity, even though he's called Jehovah to do it, he has to offer the opportunity as an agency for him to receive the blessings for doing so. One answered, like unto the Son of Man and said, here am I, send me. And another, we understand from other passages and prophetic commentary that this is the adversary, Lucifer. He said, Here am I, send me. And the Lord said, I will send the first. And now it explains why in 28, as you were saying earlier, that the second was angry, he kept not his first estate, he rejected the earth or the plan of making the earth.

01:06:50 He then had many follow after him. They had to know what this was. They had to make that choice and for it to be just for the law of harvest to roll out, they had to know what they were rejecting. Our agency had to be actually an agent in premortality. We had to have had this explained and taught clearly and lawfully in a way that we could make a real choice. It

is the fact, as you said, John, from that wonderful mission leader, it is the fact that every single person here who is bodied and every embodied soul did make this choice and they did accept that the Savior could be their redeemer and they can do so again. Maybe one other quick thought here about these personal premortal covenants that I think is helpful. He says, Elder Orson Hyde said of our life in the premortal world, we understood things better there than we do in this lower world. As to the agreements we made there, he also surmised it's not impossible that we signed the articles thereof with our own hands, which articles may be retained in the archives above to be presented to us when we rise from the dead and be judged out of our own mouths, according to that which is written in the books.

01:08:11 Elder Brook P. Hales, his talk several conferences ago, it was so significant. The title says it all, Mortality Works. Why does it work? The only way it could work is if in premortality we had an understanding of what it was we needed in our progress, in our stratification of not yet being like God, not yet being like the one close to God or Kolob or Jesus Jehovah that, oh, what would we need? What torture devices? What muscle group is undeveloped? What character is not yet achieved? et cetera. Now we see why we can embrace a mortality and see that it really will work because we have this understanding that we had a loving God who huddled us up and said, I'm in the midst of you. I know you. I know what I can bless you with. I know what you need. This is why I can embrace the craziness of mortality because of these wonderful truths in the scriptures and the living prophets.

John Bytheway: 01:09:13 I've heard it called the Lord's law of learning. They will learn by their own experience to discern good from evil. My grandpa, Vernon Ezekiel Jarman, what a great grandpa name.

Hank Smith: 01:09:26 That's awesome.

John Bytheway: 01:09:27 Vernon Ezekiel Jarman used to say, experience is a dear school and we fools will learn in no other.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:09:35 Ah, that's great. I love it. Maybe as we cap off this part of the discussion with Abraham three, Joseph Smith said, the organization of the spiritual and heavenly worlds and of the spiritual and heavenly beings was agreeable in the most perfect order and harmony. Their limits and bounds were fixed irrevocably, and then this, and voluntarily subscribed to in their heavenly estate by themselves, and were by our first parents subscribed to upon the earth. Wow. There are properties to this

achieving immortality in eternal life to this transformative arc that can't be won in any other way. They can't be obtained in any other way. We subscribe to them and our first parents, Adam and Eve, subscribed to them and got this mortality rolling.

Hank Smith: 01:10:28 John, we talk about this a lot. We know, and we've heard from listeners who are truly suffering. Suffering with the loss of a son or a daughter, the death of a loved one, the estrangement from people they love. It's impossible to name all the ways we go through pain. Yeah, I think, Phil, what you've taught us here is that the suffering I'm going through has great purpose. It's not just suffering to suffer, that it has purpose, that God is in it, and that one day we will see the purpose. For now, we endure, we obey. I've loved this little definition of the word prove from verse 25. I don't do much baking. I wish I could, but as John would say, listen with your spiritual ears. To prove dough in baking is not to see if it's real or see if it's gonna come through for us, it's a different definition. I'm just reading from a baking website. What exactly do we mean when we prove bread? It's the crucial final step of the process. It's the final rise during which the bread takes shape, talks about how it works here. Proving takes time, but it's a step you cannot skip for the dough to mature. You can't rush dough. Good bread relies on this time so that it will have a great texture and crust. Remember, good dough makes good bread. It's that simple. If you listen with your spiritual ears, the Lord saying, yes, I'm not testing this dough. I'm proving. I'm proving this dough. Giving it the needed time to mature and go through the process it has to go through in order to become bread. John, did you hear with your spiritual ears? You always tell me to do that.

John Bytheway: 01:12:36 Yeah. Oh, I like it. I like to say to the teenager, If you have shallow experiences, if you got asked to every dance, you never got rejected, if you won every contest or aced every test, if you have shallow experience after shallow experience, you might end up being shallow. But if you have experiences-

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:13:01 Shocking.

John Bytheway: 01:13:02 ... that test you, deep experiences that are tough that you have to, you're getting proven you're getting tested through, you might become deep. You might become a friend to somebody that you can sit with and say, I have been through that. The Lord will use you to help other people who are not having shallow experiences. Sometimes I, oh, I think he does that on purpose, puts us next to somebody who's really been through something tough right when we need it. That's another way I guess we get

proved. What's the dad joke? I wanted to be a baker, but I couldn't raise the dough or something like that.

Hank Smith: 01:13:42 I knew you would have something for me there. And I wanted to throw one more idea out at both of you from Elder Maxwell. Man, he's been with us today. He taught that at some point for some people, in some point of their lives, it's no longer about God doubting the outcome of this test. He said, God is already preparing you for future assignments in the next life. Here's the quote, the future duties to be given to some of us in the worlds to come will require of us an earned sense of esteem as well as proof of our competency. Thus, the tests given here are not given because God is in doubt as to the outcome, but because we need to grow in order to be able to serve with full effectiveness in the eternity to come.

John Bytheway: 01:14:41 Learn by experience.

Hank Smith: 01:14:42 So good. You're past step one, he's now preparing you for your callings after this life.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:14:50 That's that conversion. We are literally being converted and transformed. I can't help but just cap off with this statement from Elder Hales about the woman who had had such a hard mortality and her son is in the temple and gets this kind of incoming. Her quote is so cool. I want you to know that mortality works. I want you to know that I now understand why everything happened in my life the way it did, and it is all okay. That's October 2024. It's all okay. We have this God who knows us, he's standing in the midst of us, he's prepared every needful thing just as he's worked with Abraham, as he will talk about with Moses, he's working with each of us very customized curricula for our becoming and conversion.



John Bytheway:	00:00:01	Welcome back to part two of Moses one and Abraham three with Dr. Phillip Alred.
Hank Smith:	00:00:07	Phil, I hate to keep hitting this because we, there's so much we need to do, but just one more thing. I think maybe even harder than suffering yourself is witnessing your children suffer. Watching others suffer and especially your children. Can't this doctrine help me as I see a child facing something that is heartbreaking for them and for you?
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:00:34	Yeah, absolutely. In our own circumstances as everyone, we may all be, I suppose, different in the particulars, but like Paul said, all temptation taken you is common to man. In 1 Corinthians 10, we're having a shared experience even though maybe the details seem a little different. As Jennifer and I have navigated this, as we've watched our loved ones, our children, our ancestors, those before us and after us that we love and cherish to see the weight of mortal challenge and opportunity. That's really what we're shifting from is to speak of these and conceive of these things as simply bad or hard, but rather to actually see them as agency inviting opportunities, as Christ choosing chances of character building crucibles. Again, to think celestial is to flip the perspective on this as being so negative and so wrong and so unequal or unfair, instead to see, oh, this doctrine provides a vision for which, as you've said, oh, this is as what Elder Orson F. Whitney said, no pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted, but rather ministers to the development, our education and the development of our qualities. I'm just so grateful for that because yes, it does provide a way for those of us who aren't currently in a crucible looking at others who are, and to see meaning in it, to see conversion and opportunity for Christ in it.
Hank Smith:	00:02:14	Yeah. Just so our listeners know, sometimes they may assume that our guests don't face hard things. Phil and Jennifer have faced difficult, difficult things. This doctrine works. The gospel works.

Dr. Philip Allred:	00:02:30	Yeah, it does. And when we first learned of something particular, it's their story too. I don't wanna overstate things, but when I first became aware of a challenge that one of our children was experiencing, I had the sweet download from the Spirit. It was just lovely and it caused me a lot of pause and comfort. And that was, Phil, salvation and exaltation are very long games. I suppose this would be an appropriate time to share something in a less emotional time when I was reflecting on some of the experiences that our families are having. I was just kind of curiously intrigued by the veil and I had been reading Revelation and how the adversary accuses day and night before the throne. And in a moment there, I was asked, I was thinking, maybe the veil plays a role. I mean, how much can you accuse us down here?
	00:03:24	Well, we don't even remember our premortal life. Well, yeah, they had both hands tied behind their back. And what are you gonna say about that? You know what I mean? They did really well considering they didn't know anything. I was kind of just curious about that. I don't have any answers to it, but what happened was really beautiful. I had the experience of the Lord's voice to me saying what you already know and has come up many times on this wonderful podcast with many of your guests in one form or another. And that is, he tells me, Phil, there's not one thing about salvation and exaltation that I don't know. I had quoted President Benson earlier about there's not one thing we'll find out that He will have left undone. This was a different message. There isn't anything about saving and exalting my kids that I'm in the dark on or that I'm not like totally proficient in, and have done worlds after worlds after worlds.
	00:04:26	Now, I know that intellectually. I knew that before that day, but here's that thing again, independent verifiability. Now I know that personally. He told me that. He didn't tell somebody in the scriptures that or a friend that. I love that. He did that to them too, but I know I have this sweet recognition and peace amidst the turmoil, amidst whatever, the things that seem non-ideal. I have this peace that he knows exactly how to do salvation and exaltation. He's good at this.
Hank Smith:	00:05:04	Phil, we've had you for a while now, but to be fair, of all the lessons this year, you might have the best one. Tell us your thoughts on Moses one.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:05:14	Let's just work with that theme that we felt from Abraham. While there's a lot of material in between, and we'll pause on some of those, let's just do a quick overview of where's the

personal? Because this chapter, just like Abraham three, is super cosmic. It's interplanetary. Those are super interesting. I think I'm as curious about those things as anybody, but with the theme of what we have today, let's just go verse by verse, and I just wanna highlight. I've got all these in yellow highlight in my large set of scriptures here. Verse one, of course, the words of God, he spoke to Moses at a time, Moses was up, caught up in an exceedingly high mountain. We'll come back to that. But then here too, he saw God face to face. He talked with him. Here again, just like Abraham, but now centuries later, you have Moses experiencing God intimately, personal, face-to-face.

00:06:08 In verse three, God spoke to Moses and said, I am the Lord God Almighty. He does introduce himself, but then fascinatingly in verse four, Thou art my son. And I will show thee. Here we have Joseph Smith receiving in the early 1830s, twin accounts that are consistent between them of how God is not only interested in showing the big picture and the cosmic realms and explaining about how powerful he is, he is very, very committed to making sure each of these sons of his know him and that he knows them. Jesus' teaching sometimes contains some very hard sayings. In Matthew, he starts his public ministry with the Sermon on the Mount at which he concludes that sermon, the way Matthew structured his gospel, he concludes that sermon with the horrific statement from Jesus about, I don't know you. That there will be some that will come and knock, knock, Lord, Lord, and he will say, I don't know you.

00:07:11 You can't join me and we're not going to the same place. We're not gonna be doing the same things. Now, I know that the Joseph Smith translation changes it and it's critical that it does because it, we'll see why that's consistent here. But he concludes, Matthew concludes the public ministry of Jesus in a very similar way by the three parables, the last three parables in Matthew 25, the 10 virgins parable. What does he tell them? The five who come, who finally went and got some oil, or we're not sure if they totally did get the oil, but they show up and they knock. And he says the same thing. I don't know you. And the JST wonderfully changes it to, you don't know me. You never knew me. That hard saying of Jesus echoes in my mind all the time, anything I would do to avoid one day the Lord saying, Phil, you don't know me.

00:08:03 We don't have a relationship. You don't actually know me. And what I love about why that's scary on one hand and why this is so comforting to me is we see here that God with Abraham and now with Moses is busy trying to be close to them. He's working to say, Hey, I know you. I know your name. I know you're my

son. Look at verse six. I have a work for thee. Let's work together. You can see almost that huddle in premortality that we saw in Abraham three. Now with Moses, like, okay, remember we all had this assignment. You don't remember this, but I got this work for you. Premortally, we worked this out and I got this work for you. You're in the similitude of mine only begotten. The similitude there is multiple, at least one similitude is yes, we do look like we are in the image of God.

00:08:51 Also, you're in the similitude of the saving work that he will do. You will be doing saving work like him. It makes me think a little bit of President Hinckley saying that the closest we can ever come to being like Jesus is doing proxy work for the dead and the temple. And literally something they cannot do for themselves, but we can do for them. And that's the closest we can to do any atoning work in our lives, which I think is such an interesting concept. Verse seven, Now behold, this one thing I show unto thee Moses, my son, name, relationship, for thou art in the world, and now I show it unto thee. Let's skip over to verse 21. In the middle of having the adversary come to him, Satan's trembling and the earth is shaking. It's this crazy scene. Moses received, this is passive, he received strength.

00:09:47 God is with him in the midst of this craziness and he's giving him strength. He's like, I'm with you. Go over to 25, Once that has passed, calling on the name of God, he beheld his glory again. So here's back into God's presence. He hears this voice. Blessed art thou Moses, again, by name, for I the Almighty have chosen thee. Oh, wow. Verse 26, Lo, I am with thee. Verse 31, The glory of Lord was upon Moses. Moses stood in the presence of God, talked with him face to face again a second time. This is so intensely personal. Now in verse 35, he says, Okay, I'm just gonna give you an account of this earth that I'm giving to you. He's, I'm giving you this. Look at the bottom of verse 35. These are all mine and why? I know them. I know them. Verse 37, the Lord spake to Moses. Again, the bottom of verse 37. They are numbered to me, they are mine. Now verse 40, Now Moses, my son. I will speak to thee. And now we're gonna get the creation account, et cetera, and the rest of the chapters two, three and four.

Hank Smith: 00:11:05 Phil, I love what you're doing with us so far in Moses one.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:11:10 What's fun about the book of Moses is as we go back to the start now, there's really three episodes. Structurally, it's pretty easy to take a look at verses one through 11 as standing alone because they're Moses in this experience on this mountain with the Lord and the aftermath of him recovering from it because

you do apparently have to recover from being in the presence of the Lord. That's the first episode. The second episode will be verses 12 through 24, where now out of the Lord's presence, the adversary comes. We'll talk about those verses and then verses 25, close to the end of, to 41 will be a renewal of that experience with the Lord. If you study the book of Exodus and track Moses, he goes up and down mountains no less than 12 times that I can count. He's literally going up and down mountains. So when does this happen? Verse 17 has this reference to the burning bush when he called him out. It's Moses in the middle of this second episode where Satan is with him, that he makes this reference. When we spoke with Kerry Muhlestein last time, he said, Hey, a lot of people think that these are two discreet experiences, but Kerry suggested that for him, he thought this might be the same moment just a little bit later. Some of this chapter is occurring after that initial burning bush moment.

Hank Smith: 00:12:40 Since we're talking who's who and when's when, there may be some out there who think, and I can see why they would think that Moses is talking to God the Father here.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:12:51 Oh yeah, yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:12:52 Right? In the way he speaks. But walk me through that briefly.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:12:55 We know that since the fall, we lost the presence of the Father. We would go back to the Garden of Eden and we know in that exchange and in the fall and really an important distinction, we had to be in a school, if you will, of mortality away from our heavenly parents. We'd already progressed as far as we could. The prophets tell us in premortality with the opportunities there. At some point, our spirit had to become embodied and we had to go out of the presence of God so that we could be in this opportunity of choice and agency. So when we do that, then because the law had been broken, there had to be an intermediary. There has to be a savior. The communication always occurs, and this is a First Presidency message in 1909 that really establishes this too, and multiple prophets since, but the term that's used is divine investiture of authority. While it's Jehovah speaking, this Jesus' premortal life name, that he is giving the words of the Father, and because he's that messenger, it sounds like it's the Father.

Hank Smith: 00:14:00 Right. Moses is speaking to a premortal Christ here, like the book of Ether.

Dr. Philip Allred:	00:14:05	Exactly. That's another great place to see, oh, okay, this is how this is working. Jesus saying, You're seeing me what I will look like when I come to take upon a body of flesh and blood.
Hank Smith:	00:14:17	Walk us through these three episodes. This is actually really fun.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:14:21	I know, it's really cool. Here we have him learning that the Lord says in verse five, he says, look, nobody can behold all my works unless he behold all my glory. But he says, but if you do that, if you behold all my glory, you can't remain in flesh on the earth. Then in verse six, he says, He is full of grace and truth. Even though Jesus is that, there is no God beside me, which is really interesting. There's the Father, I've given you the Son, and He is incredible, but I am your God. It's really interesting because Jesus is actually the one that's saying this, right? We do believe in Heavenly Father as our Heavenly Father as the God. His Son is perfected like him, but there is that distinction there. In verse seven, he says, I'm gonna show you this world. You're in the world. I'm gonna show it to you. Now what happens is this remarkable unlocking of vision and sight. Verse eight, he looks, he sees the world and the ends thereof. This appears to be all the times and dispensations and all the children of men which are, and which were created. And of course, then the understatement, he greatly marveled and wondered because you're seeing billions and billions of people. He's like, oh, my word. All we get in this first episode is this almost teaser of like, hey, let me just blow your mind for a second and show you all the billions of people that'll ever be on the earth.
	00:15:47	Bam. And then the presence of God withdrew. Now remember what he had told him is he says, I'm gonna show you the works of my hands. I'm gonna show you this. I'm gonna blow your mind for a second. I'm gonna burn a bush in front of you. I wanna see if you're curious. I wanna see if you're interested. I wanna see if you're willing to work to know more. Because what happens is he leaves, right, in verse nine. Moses is left to himself. Of course, he falls to the earth. This is so powerful. Makes you think of Sidney Rigdon after the vision of, you know, Joseph's out there ready to wrestle somebody and Sidney's, you know, oh, is all pale and what's up with him? Of course, Joseph's statement, well, he is not as used to it as I am, which is such a fascinating thing that one day we could be so used to it, as Joseph was. Falls to the earth, verse 10, many hours before he can even get up. Then he says this, okay, I know now man is nothing. I had never supposed that.
Hank Smith:	00:16:46	Yeah. I've seen the glory of Egypt, the center of the world,

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:16:51 The pyramids, carnac, all of this, like- Whoa.

John Bytheway: 00:16:54 I walked among it all.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:16:56 That ain't nothing. So then in verse 11, this very important point, as the next episode happens, he needs to know this. In verse 11, Mine own eyes have beheld God, but I realized they were not my natural eyes. Remember how I had mentioned that it wasn't a vision I had of Helaman five. It wasn't. I didn't see it. If I had, I probably couldn't tell you that I had. But do you know what I mean? I didn't see it, but I think it's something that was even more powerful. I saw that, if you will, with my spiritual eyes. He even says, my natural eyes could not have beheld this. I would have withered and died in His presence. But instead, I did behold his face because I was allowed to through some power that came to me that he calls transfiguration.

00:17:49 The bottom of verse 11. I was transfigured and I had to be in order to be able to endure this. Because he has this experience and he knows, Oh, this was supernatural. This was beyond my natural capacities. What happens next is really easy to discern. God is gone. He's had this experience. In fact, I think we can liken it in a lot of ways to I've had a spiritual experience, whatever it might be. It's filled my soul with joy, with light. I feel amazing. And then that goes away. That season has passed for the moment, and then life goes on, and in those moments when lesser ideas, lesser voices call, weaknesses manifest, et cetera, now I can tell the difference. I can see, wait, this feels, this is palpably tangibly different than I felt then. When many of our friends and family are struggling with their faith and they come with a question or they come with deep feelings, if we're doing what Jesus tells us to do, we're thoughtful, kind, sensitive, and patient, and we listen, we listen and we listen, we listen, we ask questions.

00:19:05 And through it all, we pose a question. How do you feel versus how you used to feel? If you felt to sing the song of redeeming love, Alma asked, if you've been in the beauty of those moments where, as Joseph said, this tastes good, the true doctrine, what does this taste like? It's okay to have a question you don't know the answer to and to be bothered by, that's fine. But when you think you've come to an answer that takes you away from the truth, how does that taste? How does that feel? It's probably different than this. Unless you're gonna self-deceive, you have to admit, this feels different than that. This feels different than that. So in verse 12, here comes the adversary, tempting him. This is the juxtaposition to all of this name, relationship, personal, the Lord, I know you, I have a

work for you, Moses, my son, Moses, now you have the counterpoint.

00:20:09 Here comes the adversary, exactly as President Nelson said so well to the church, especially to the youth in his Choices For Eternity, that it's about identity. If the adversary can rock us off of who we are as children of God, he comes and he says, Moses slips in this little dig, son of man. Worship me. He reduces him in order to exalt himself to a position of being somebody to worship, but he's gotta take Moses down from being the son of God, right? He's gotta shear him off of the herd, if you will, of the noble and great ones. He's gotta get him off to the side, just like predators do in the Sahara and get this person vulnerable because they don't know who they are. They don't know that they're a child of God.

Hank Smith: 00:20:58 You have to, I've noticed, have enough experiences with the real thing that you can recognize the counterfeit thing.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:21:09 The counterfeit.

Hank Smith: 00:21:10 I have a brother-in-law, Derek Booth, he's a bishop out in Castle Rock, Colorado. He's been in the secret service for many decades, where I look at counterfeit money, not that I run into it very much, but when he sees counterfeit money, he can tell. I mean, it is so quick because he's been able to spend his life being able to see the real thing versus the counterfeit. It's really quick for him because he has that experience. It's interesting that Moses says, this is different, and I don't like it. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:21:48 We all have to get to that place where we can tell that's not God right there. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:21:56 Yeah.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:21:56 With that, he asks Satan a bunch of questions. This is really interesting. He's actually asking him questions. He says, in verse 13, he says, well, who are you? Because I'm a son of God. He heard, he heard the Lord and he believed him. This is what we've gotta do. Moses displays how you handle these moments by believing the messages he's already been given by the Lord. How many times have the prophets told us, Don't cast away what you know for the things that you don't know. When moments of question and I don't understand, okay, the answer to those is not to jettison what you do know, it's to do the work of finding out how you can know more, but don't get rid of what you already know. Elder Holland particularly has been so good

at articulating that, President Holland. He's displaying, this is how you do it.

00:22:49 Don't give up on what you know, because he says, I'm a son of God, and I'm in the similitude of His Only Begotten. He listened. He heard what was said back in six and seven, and he's like, Okay, I believe that. I'm guessing in some ways, if there was some time in between here, he has made a record of this. It's something he can go back to in times of trial and read. Then he says this next question, he says, Where is thy glory that I should worship thee? 'Cause I've just been conked out for hours. Verse 14, I couldn't even look on him unless his glory was upon me. This is maybe his equation of what translation is, this glory that could come upon him. He says, unless I was transfigured, but I can look at you in the natural man. And then he asked this really funny question. He's like, Isn't that true? That's true. There's nothing special happening here. I can just see you. This is like the old Sesame Street one of these is not like the other. One of these is just not like the other. And I can judge it. Verse 15, Blessed be the name of God. His spirit hasn't altogether withdrawn from me. I can now tell that this is actually darkness, which indicates that he was feigning light, that it would have looked like light, but it would have had no substance. This light is there, but it's not the gravitas of the presence of God or his angels or his ministers.

Hank Smith: 00:24:18 There is a BYU speech that would go along perfectly with this week's Come, Follow Me lesson. Look up Elder Holland, Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence. It's a brilliant talk, as most of Elder Holland's messages are and the way he gives them.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:24:39 I don't think he's ever given a clunker.

Hank Smith: 00:24:42 Here's one piece of it. He walks through Moses chapter one in quite a bit of this talk. He says, Like Moses in his vision, there may come after the fact some competing doubts and some confusion, but they will pale when you measure them against the real thing. Remember the real thing. Remember how urgently you have needed help in earlier times and that you got it. The Red Sea will open to the honest seeker of revelation. The adversary does have power to hedge up the way to marshal Pharaoh's forces and dog our escape right to the water's edge, but he can't produce the real thing. And that's exactly what you've said here, Phil, is you can tell. You can tell.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:25:29 Isn't that amazing? Consider in this moment, the attack is you're not a son of God. You're nothing special. I'm really great and

you gotta worship me. Elder Andersen gave a great talk a while ago in this evening with a general authority address in 2014. He says something that's really cool about how Moses goes from realizing, wow, God is incredible and I am quote nothing, back in verse 10. Now the adversary comes to basically say, see, see you're nothing. Look how nothing you are. And he tries to broker that recognition that in comparison to God, he's nothing, but Satan wants to turn that into a malignant thing rather than an invitational. Here's what Elder Andersen said in that address. He says, As we realize the greatness of God and that God is our Father, hope will increase. That hope is magnified in His Son, Jesus Christ. You'll remember that Moses was left alone and Satan came tempting him saying, Moses son of man worship me.

00:26:29 But Moses confronted Satan with the verses that we've just read. Now, Elder Andersen continues. He says, Moses realized that while he was nothing, he was somebody. How about that? He realized he was nothing, because he was a son of God, he has eternal value. Realize that in comparison with God, sure, he's nothing, but because he's a son of God, this eternal value is in place. So Elder Andersen then said, There is no need for despair. We are sons and daughters of God. His only begotten Son is our Savior and Redeemer. As we love him, he will lift us above our troubles. As we repent, he will forgive us. Because of Him, we will be resurrected. As we live worthily, we will be washed clean and return to our Father forever. Isn't that so great? I love it. I am nothing, but I am divine.

00:27:30 There is, in Christ, a power greater than the adversary. There is a sphere yet to come, a world, as we're gonna go into the next verses, a world yet to come, and worlds plural yet to come that are better, greater, happier than this world. But this world is a critical part of the transformation. By the way, the logic doesn't work. It ends up that he's logicing, if you will, that, can we make a verb out of that? I guess I just did. Logicing. Right. As he's visiting with the adversary and then asking him these questions, it turns out in verse 17, God had given him commandments, right? So he said, Oh, 16. Sorry. Get thee hence, Satan. I can tell you're not God and I'm not gonna worry. You gotta go away. Go away. And then in verse 18, Moses said, I'm not gonna cease calling upon God. I've got things I wanna know. I'm curious. I got questions. I can sense you can't answer them for me. All you seem to be doing is raising questions. I wanna go to the person that actually has answers. All you do is raise questions. I wanna get to him who can actually give me answers.

Hank Smith:	00:28:42	Oh, Phil, I'm gonna quote you on that forever. How many sources do we have out there about the church, about God, about Joseph Smith? They're pretty good at raising up questions.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:28:53	And it's like whack-a-mole. Even if you can try to give an an- guess what? More questions.
John Bytheway:	00:28:57	Right. They'll never be satisfied.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:28:58	There's never ... No. It's just a big whack-a-mole game, right?
Hank Smith:	00:29:02	But you have no answers. I need answers, not questions.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:29:05	I need answers. I wanna go to the guy that has the answers. I don't wanna waste my time with all this. Now, again, this is not to denigrate honest, real intent questions.
Hank Smith:	00:29:15	Absolutely.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:29:16	The whole restoration begins because a real intented young man said, I wanna know how do I get forgiven of my sins. I wanna know how this works. We're never denigrating honest, real intent questions, but we do have to realize with clarity that the adversary is only trying to raise doubt after question after doubt after question. Remember, it's, it doesn't work. He tells him to go away, and it doesn't work. Go away. So in verse 19, when Moses had said these words, Satan actually gets really upset. He's mad. Reminiscent of the temple. You know what I mean? It's like starts to, huh, okay. And he rants on the earth in this loud voice and he's commanding and he's even claiming I'm the only begotten, worship me, which is suggestive of his imposter that he likes to be an imposter. That factors in the Garden of Eden, I think. John Milton and Hugh Nibley both suggested, yeah, he shows up and he's trying to be an imposter. He's trying to be the guy. In verse 20, now Moses seeing that while he doesn't have the gravitas of God, he's still got something and it's scary and he starts to fear and he's began to fear, he sees the bitterness of hell. But then this word, this to me is the critical word and it's found elsewhere in scripture. The word is nevertheless. To me, that's a marker for the assertion of agency that we'll be in a moment and it's tough or we don't know what to do or it's confusing or it could be any number of things. And we acknowledge, wow, this guy's freaking out, right? You know, here's Satan, he's freaking out on me. I can't seem to get rid of him.

	00:31:00	And right? Nevertheless, he asserts his agency. What does he do? He calls on God, receives strength, and he then commanded, you gotta go, Satan. You really gotta go. Well, this one God is the only one I'm gonna worship. It's the God of glory. But wildly enough, that doesn't work. Verse 21, Satan began to tremble. The earth even begins to shake. Moses now, having called upon God, received strength a minute ago, now receives more strength. Part of that strength was revelatory. I think we're not just talking about some might that he received. I think he gets the direction, son, you're gonna have to call on my Son to get rid of this guy. Because that's what he does next. In the name of the only begotten, depart hence Satan. Satan cries with a loud voice, weeps, wails, gnashes his teeth, departs. Whoa. Now, what I find really cool about this is that at the implication of the name of the Son of God, Satan has to obey.
Hank Smith:	00:32:16	Only one person scares him.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:32:18	Yeah, there we go. Do not call that guy.
Hank Smith:	00:32:22	Yeah, do not. All right. I'm out.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:32:26	Years ago, when I was working in Idaho and the church education system, we had an area director. His name was L. Edward Brown. And I think he'd been the mayor of Pocatello for a time and things. He was just a marvelous educator. He's passed now, but he was called as a general authority. He was served in the second quorum, I believe, for a few years. In his conference address, he got to give a conference address. He says the following, and this is from April 1997. He says, Here was a power that was dark and bitter. How could Moses withstand such? In this great moment of crisis, Moses receives strength, called upon God saying in the name of the Only Begotten depart hence Satan, the verse we just read in verse 21. He now appealed, Elder Brown says, to a power beyond his own.
	00:33:16	Remember, he'd made logic? Moses tried a lot of things. He now appealed to a power beyond his own. He tapped into a source of strength and authority through the Lord Jesus Christ, a power which Satan could not defy, as you said Hank. This is the only person that scares Satan. He continues and said, Moses appealed to a power beyond his own, tapping into this source of strength beyond his own that he couldn't defy. He then said, When we use these sacred words, in the name of Jesus Christ, they're much more than a way to get out of a prayer or close a testimony or a talk. We're on holy ground, brothers and sisters. We're using a name, most sublime, most holy and most

wonderful, the very name of the son of God. What power and reassurance and peace come when we really pray in his name?

00:34:13 This conclusion to the prayer may in many ways be the most important part of the prayer. We can appeal to the Father through his victorious Son with confidence that our prayers will be heard, we can ask and receive, we can seek and find the open door. That's wonderful. Wisdom says, how can we employ His name more often, more powerfully, in more settings?

Hank Smith: 00:34:41 Yeah, at home. Talk about him more. Read about him more.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:34:46 Yeah. Isn't it beautiful that now we have a new prophet, a new prophet in the land? Dallin H. Oaks, he gave one of his early talks as an apostle. It was about the name of the Lord. Many remember that he taught about five ways in which the name of the Lord will be a blessing to us in which we need to engage and receive his name. This is the April 1985 conference. He talks about how baptism is where we first enter the covenant path and receive his name, that there's a renewal in the sacrament that as members, the second way is that we're supposed to proclaim His name. We take His name upon us in baptism. Now, as members of the church, we proclaim His name, publicly proclaiming our belief in Him. The third way is that we engage in the work of His kingdom, part of which is, of course, proclaiming His name in say formal missionary work or informal ways, but also even things like suffering shame for His name, doing the work of His kingdom. He said those three ways are pretty easy for most people to recognize that we take on the name of Christ. But he said there's a fourth and a fifth that upon further reflection present themselves. He said, The scriptures speak of the Lord putting His name in a temple, on the temple even, because inside the temple, the authority for His name to be used in sacred ordinances of that house is given.

00:36:18 We commence in the covenant path with taking on His name in baptism, but it's a path. It wasn't a destination. It's a path that stretches forward into the house of God whereon and wherein we take further the name of Christ upon us. In the sacrament, he says, we actually indicate that by saying we're only willing to take upon us. That language is really interesting, right? I thought we were renewing our covenant. We made a baptism. We surely are, but that is not the arrival. That is the commencement of the covenant path, which is to lead us into his house.

John Bytheway: 00:37:00 I remember that talk. He talked about the temple comes later about really taking His name, but being willing as part of the,

like you said, the covenant path, which I think Moses would say is a covenant climb. It's the mountain.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:37:16 That's right. He would say that. And President Eyring has talked about, he says, you know, you're on the right path if it's uphill. You always know if you're on the right path. And so he called it, in fact, the covenant climb in one of the leadership trainings prior to a recent conference. With that, then as we enter into the temples and we certify in a sense our candidacy to become temple worthy and enter into the temples and do that work, to receive his name there in special ways that can only be had inside of His house when we partake of the sacrament. Even eight-year-olds, having started that covenant path, if parents will teach them, this is a remarkable way to help them keep temple-minded, taking on the name of the Lord. The final way in which President Oaks, at the time, Elder Oaks, talked about it was another future event we may anticipate is when we witness our willingness to take on the sacred name is concerning our relationship to our Savior and the blessings available to those who will one day be called in His name at the last day.

00:38:21 We will literally be called in His name and had we put it upon us throughout these ... I love that from President Oaks. Maybe this would be appropriate to share with you because President Oaks is our new prophet, I like little moments where we get to know things about them. I had been so enamored of his 2000 conference address, the Challenge to Become that I actually designed an entire education week, three hour presentation on that talk. You know how we do, and we use various settings, you're like... So I'd made this really cool thing. Well, turns out he came to be the Education Week speaker for this three-day event. So I thought, oh, this will be really cool. Part of me was like, I wonder if he even knows that I've made a three-hour thing out of his talk, right? You know?

00:39:08 I go up in the handshake line. I'm sure in my silly mind, I'm thinking, Well, this would be really cool. I can say, President Oaks, thank you. I love that talk. By the way, I did a whole three-hour thing on your talk, right? You know, nerdy, goofy. So I get up there, I'm excited. I had the experience with him in the mission field a couple decades earlier where we'd shared about reading scripture and receiving revelation as we do so. This is my second chance to be in his presence. Had the most interesting experience. I go to shake his hand and I'm about to, my mouth is about to open to say... And he takes, he takes my hand, he shakes it, but his other hand is on my elbow and he is, I wouldn't say forcibly, but it was very clearly he's moving me past. And in a moment, almost like, remember the Christmas

		Story movie where the little kid wants a Red Ryder BB gun and he's up there with Santa, you know what I mean?
	00:40:02	And he's all tongue tied. He's like, Uh, and he's like, Oh, you want a football, don't you? And he shoves him down the thing and he's like, no! And about halfway down the side, he's like, No, I want a Red Ryder BB gun. And the moment's passed and it's just, I had that moment like, Whoa, I was shaking hands with the apostles. I just wanted to tell him thank you for this talk and look at this is cool. And I just got shoved down the slide. I looked back, coolest thing ever. I looked back, you know, slightly dismayed, like, oh, well, there was, there was my chance. What happened? The woman behind me, she's in tears, like tears are streaming down her face. He took her and he spent time with her. I saw an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ in action. In that moment, I didn't need that. Hey, how cool I made a three hour thing on your talk. No, that's nothing. This woman was in pain and the Savior through his apostle was taking time with her. It was one of the most sweet privileges to be moved down the slide because the prophet of God was ministering to someone who needed it in that moment.
Hank Smith:	00:41:15	Phil, what an interesting chapter so far, moment of truth, light, then complete darkness, fear, fight through it, bring in the right name that scares the adversary and boom, light again.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:41:33	Yeah. We have to go through the difficult times and the dark threads, as John shared so well from Elder Maxwell before. Those are a really critical part of our lives, otherwise without the tearing of those muscles, there's none of that. Knowing that and realizing that in verse 25, calling upon the name of God, Moses now beholds His glory again. He hears this voice and he says, Blessed art thou Moses. This is one of those moments where God has said, Okay, you have seized your agency. You said nevertheless and acted in faith, now I can do more with you. Had Moses receded, the next episode doesn't happen. The nevertheless moments in our lives are critical. Nevertheless, followed by faithful action, calling on the name of the Lord or engaging in His gospel in more full ways will bring then further opportunities. Here he is telling him that he's gonna be made stronger than many waters, an indicator, you know, a foreshadowing.
John Bytheway:	00:42:36	Now, what could that possibly mean? Yeah.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:42:40	The Nile River, all these things. Of course, of course, the biggie, the Red Sea. He says in verse 26, I'm with thee to the end of thy days, you're gonna deliver my people, even Israel, my chosen,

obviously pre-Egypt. But then this, while the voice was speaking, Moses cast his eyes and now is shown the earth. Remember, he'd seen it before in the first episode, but here he gets to see it, even all of it, even down to the particulate level. In fact, there was not a particle even. I don't know if we're down at quark levels or what, are we just talking cellular? I'm not totally sure what we're talking about here. Added to it now, that's super teeny, but then he comes up the scale and says in 28, I beheld the inhabitants thereof. There wasn't a soul that I didn't behold. I discerned them by the Spirit of God. Their numbers were great, numberless as the sand on the shore. He sees all these different lands. I'm guessing he's seeing, again, time rolling forward. So, Moses has some questions. What he learns is really amazing, and this is where I think we can end with crescendo in our time with Moses and Abraham today. But as he's talking with the Lord face to face, he says in verse 30, I wanna know why. Why are you doing this? And I wanna know how you did it. By what did you do this? Like, how do you do this? As you read through it, you see that the Lord says, Look, it's wisdom in me why I did it in verse 31. He's going to be explaining it in a few verses, but he wants to crescendo with that, the why.

00:44:24 But he says, Let me just tell you how I did it. I did it, in verse 32, by the very power, the powerful person, shall we say, that you called upon to rid yourself of this enemy. I made all this by the same power. Jesus is the man. Jesus is the answer. He's the answer to creation. He's the answer to deliverance. He's the answer to every single thing that's gonna happen in your life that is of significance and import. What's fascinating here is he says in verse 33, worlds plural. So it's been mind blowing enough that Moses has seen this world in its particulate specificity and also in its soul specificity. He's seen that. That's enough for an afternoon. But he says, actually, there are worlds plural, Moses, and I did them all for the same purpose. Verse 33, And they all came by the Savior.

00:45:29 See, again, the elevation of Jesus. So in 35, he says, But okay, so I've just teased you that there's these other worlds, but I'm not gonna tell you about them. So it's a okay. He says, there are many worlds that have passed away. There are many that now stand. They're innumerable to you. This seems to be like an object lesson. Like with Abraham, all these stars, it seems like he's really saying, so let me get your attention. Now I wanna tell you what you really need to know because what you really need to know in verse 35 at the very bottom is, they are innumerable to you. You can't number them all, but they are mine and I know them. We've gone galactic and then we've gone

interpersonal in such a beautiful way. I know them. You don't know them. You can't know them. You can't even number them, but I do. As he asks in verse 36, well, tell me about this earth at least then. Verse 37, God's not quite done with this point. And he says, okay, Moses, I know you're deferring here, but let me seal the point. The heavens, they are many. They can't be numbered unto man, but let me tell you, I have numbered them and they are mine. He won't let this point go. He repeats it, changes the scheme. Even though Moses is interested in saying, well, okay, fine. God seems to be very clear here. I know them. And we would ask the question then, But do we know Him? Do we know Him? Are we doing the work like Moses and Abraham to get to know Him and be in relation with Him? 'Cause He knows us. There's no question He knows us. He says in verse 38, Look, earths are gonna pass away.

00:47:21 Heavens are gonna pass away, but my works and my words, they're always going on and it's personal. It's very personal to me. I've numbered them and I know them. Let's do verse 39 as the killer verse. It's the epitome of everything. And as I said at the outset, what struck me in preparation for our time together was I felt like the Lord really said, you are my work and my glory. Every one of you are my work and glory. Immortality is to live forever. And that is a promise of Jesus Christ that every person that would come to this earth through the plan of God, right, that Jesus Christ and Father would provide an immortal life. You would get a body and you will have that body for eternity. That's the overcoming of the fall with no price on our own with, other than our first estate keeping, we get this body and we will be immortal.

00:48:19 The fine point is that there is a quality of immortality. There is a property, if you will, a sphere in which you can experience your immortality that is varied and that is by choice, that is available, but is not gonna be forced on anyone. That is what is called, quote, eternal life.

John Bytheway: 00:48:45 I just love that, that when Moses says, hey, I'm not gonna stop calling upon God. I have other things to inquire of him. And then we hear what he inquires. Why are these things so? He gets to see what I've never seen, all the inhabitants on, right? And then he asks again, tell me concerning this earth. He gets answers to some of those. I have other things I wanna ask him too.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:49:12 The Lord sponsors those questions. I mean, if you think of, say, for example, the brother of Jared, what God suddenly forgot how to build barges that don't suffocate people and steer them into the rocks?

John Bytheway:	00:49:25	Yeah. Go figure it out.
Hank Smith:	00:49:27	Right.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:49:27	You know what I mean? So it's just like, really? Oh, oh, we didn't staple pages five and six into the brochure we gave to... Gabriel, come on, you gotta do better with the stapler or something. Right. No. He, very deliberately sponsoring questions. You go through the scriptures, the Lord is deliberately giving only line waiting upon faithful action to get the next line. This precept, to see if you're curious and paying attention and even care, and if you do, ah, precept two is available. Again, this independent verifiability that this invitation to all of us to ask, seek and knock. I don't know if you guys have had this experience. I'm guessing you have. I have had well-meaning, I think, students here and there just say, Well, aren't we just gonna be bored in heaven? I mean, we're just gonna be, like, in the choir, singing ceaseless praises and, look, look, I like God. I love God. I'm sure. But I mean, really, after 10 minutes, after 10 million years, am I gonna be sick of just sitting in the choir or singing ceaseless praises? Has that question ever been posed to you in some form or another about what the next life is like and is it worth it? Is it worth the work? Is it worth the try?
Hank Smith:	00:50:48	Or it sounds scary, the idea of, like, never ending, Oh, no, I, I don't know if I like that idea.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:50:54	Yeah. I've been grateful for a few prophetic statements that have expanded my vision, and they find some interesting corollary. Remember earlier we were talking about the Egyptian religion? It's like one of the few that says, Hey, marriage is a thing that goes on into the eternities. In fairness to some of our Christian brothers and sisters who read Matthew, perhaps at the expense of Mark and Luke's account of the, you know, the seven brothers had the same wife and who gets her and then Jesus saying, Well, they're not marrying or given in marriage in the resurrection. If you don't read the Mark account and the Luke account and synoptically put those together, and if you don't have Section 132 the Doctrine and Covenants, along with other modern prophets, it's hard. It's hard to see that, yeah, this is the thing. I'm not critical of our Christian brothers and sisters who reading Matthew say, well, eternal family. But I am hoping that they will carefully read and accept the restorations additions to then say, oh, there's something beautiful to be had here.
	00:52:02	I thought it might be fun to share with you something from Elder Orson F. Whitney. He was a poet, you know, and an artist

in a sense, but also a great apostle. He said this, he says, What's the Lord gonna do with this beautiful world? So we read that worlds are coming in and out of existence and this earth is part of these worlds and where's it headed and what's going on with it? Here's Elder Orson F. Whitney. This is conference report, October 1928. For those that wanna go get the whole thing, October 1928 conference report. What's the Lord gonna do with this beautiful world? Did he create it merely to destroy it? He is going to change it into a heaven, a home for the righteous. Now check this out. He says, and this is pre-President Nelson, but he says, Mormonism says that when we pass out of the body, we are in the spirit world and we'll remain there, the righteous resting from their labors, not in idleness, but in doing, working, without weariness, without pain, while awaiting a glorious resurrection.

00:53:02 Then, when they are then to have the privilege of coming back to spend their time on this planet when it is celestialized and converted into a heaven. Kind of quickly there, there's a spirit world. This earth though, when it's passed through its mortality gets to upgrade, we know the millennium will be an upgrade to terrestrialization, but there's gonna be an upgrade still, a new heaven and a new earth in which this is very much like the ordinal path for the earth. Just like there's an ordinal path for every soul, the earth is going through that. We read that in section 88, that the earth itself is gonna go through a baptism, if you will, and go through a resurrection, right? Here's the earth then going to be this heaven. He says, Does any sane man or woman believe that an all wise God would create an earth like this and place his children upon it to become expert and skillful as farmers, artisans, engineers, bankers, merchants and whatnot, whisk them away to some distant part of the universe, some world beyond the bounds of time and space where they would sit down and twiddle their thumbs and stare somebody out of countenance for a million years. How about that? He says, Is this reasonable? Is it sensible that God would do that?

Hank Smith: 00:54:25 I'd hang out with John for a million years.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:54:28 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:54:28 Yeah. There's a couple of people I'd be like, sure.

Dr. Philip Allred: 00:54:31 Maybe those thumb games. 1,001,101 to... for eternity, right? Elder Whitney continues and says, I expect to do, to spend it, meaning eternity, doing there, this celestialized earth, the things I've learned to do here, that's common sense, it's logical, it's economical elsewhere all this wasted time. No, we're not

		gonna sit down through all eternity and gaze upon the face of the Savior. In parentheses, he says, I don't believe he would want anyone to look at him that long. It would be bad manners.
John Bytheway:	00:55:12	Wow.
Hank Smith:	00:55:13	That's awesome. It would be bad manners.
John Bytheway:	00:55:18	You're staring.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:55:18	I know, right? You're staring at me again. We shall do in eternity the things we have learned to do in time, but we will do them better there than here. We will be better fathers and mothers, better husbands and wives, better in every way. Every faculty exercised and developed here will find full play and employment in the great hereafter.
Hank Smith:	00:55:43	Hmm. That's beautiful. I love the bad manners part.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:55:48	Yeah. Isn't that awesome? Now, this next quote is awesome. I love this. This is probably a little bit more familiar. Orson Pratt in the Millennial Star from 1866. I know that just rolls off of everybody's tongue, but-
Hank Smith:	00:56:03	Of course. Nonetheless- I was just reading it the other day.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:56:07	Yeah, right, see. As you do. Anyway, Orson Pratt said this, This earth when glorified is the saints eternal heaven. On it, they expect to live with body parts, and holy passions. On it, they expect to move and have their being to eat, drink, converse, worship, sing, play on musical instruments, engaged in joyful, innocent social amusements, visit neighboring towns and neighboring worlds. Indeed, matter and all its qualities and properties are the only beings or things with which they expect to associate. Then it gets even better. A heaven with lands, houses, cities, vegetation, rivers, and animals, with thrones, temples, palaces, kings, princes, priests, and angels, with food, arraignment, musical instruments, et cetera, all of which are material. Indeed, the Saints heaven, is a redeemed, glorified, celestial material creation, inhabited by glorified material beings, male and female, organized into families, embracing all the relationships of husbands and wives, parents, and children, where sorrow, crying, pain, and death will be known no more.
John Bytheway:	00:57:32	Hmm. Sign me up.

Dr. Philip Allred:	00:57:36	Bring it. Right? Yeah. As we wrap back now to verse 39, this colossal and condensed, remarkably condensed picture of what it is for us, Moses, Abraham, all of us by name to have immortality and eternal life, that that is the thing Gods do in eternity, that our heavenly parents, this is what they do, and obviously they do it really well. Literally, this is their work. This is what they joy in, this is their glory. They preach, yes, eternal family, but they live it. They are doing it. That's what they are and who they are, to know what we worship and who we worship according to Section 93. It's to know this. It's to know our relationship to them as family. It's, this is the family business.
Hank Smith:	00:58:36	I love to see how passionate you are about this, Phil.
John Bytheway:	00:58:38	Look how selfless it is. I created all of you so that you would come back here and praise me and adore me forever and that's it.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:58:46	Stare me out of a countenance for eternity.
Hank Smith:	00:58:48	That's bad manners.
Dr. Philip Allred:	00:58:50	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	00:58:51	I love how selfless it is. No, I created you for your own immortality and eternal life and the kind of life that I live. Recently, a great scholar gave a talk at Ensign College about- I think he actually was quoting Lehi, the title of his talk was, Because of the Righteousness of Thy Redeemer. Boy, did he get passionate about this verse. His name was, is Henry Smith, otherwise known as Hank Smith. If you wanna go to Ensign College's website. Watch Hank's talk because, man, you had some one-liners in there that were just so good.
Hank Smith:	00:59:32	When I went to talk to Phil about this episode, I had it in mind. I was actually preparing that message. John, you're the one ... I think you're the one who told me someone asked Albert Einstein once. Someone said, If you could talk to God, what would you say? He said, I'd want to know how he created the universe. And then he stopped and said, that's just equations. I think I could figure that out. He said, I'd want to know why. I'd want to know why cause then I would have purpose.
John Bytheway:	01:00:02	I would know the meaning of my life. It's beautiful. And Stephen Hawking said, Science may solve the problem of how the universe began, but it cannot answer the question of why does

		the universe bother to exist? Well, we've got an answer right there. This is why the universe exists. This is His work and his glory.
Hank Smith:	01:00:24	His why, his passion. This is my joy. This is my mission. This is my end goal.
John Bytheway:	01:00:29	Yeah. That's why I like that. My passion, my glory. I mean, we have eight year olds in primary who could go teach Albert Einstein something. Well, actually, it's right here. We can read so quickly past that, but that is, people have called it a mission statement, is so succinct and so beautiful. If you had to find a mission statement for Satan, I might choose the last part of 2 Nephi 2:27. He seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.
Hank Smith:	01:01:01	And you have them both here, right? In Moses one. You have them side by side. John, you're the one that's showed me years and years ago the scriptures.byu.edu. And you can see the references of the scriptures when they've been used in general conference. Go look at 2 Nephi 2:25, and it's been referenced 200 times. And then you go look at Joseph Smith's, you know, this is my beloved son here. That one's been referenced 200 times in general conference. If you go look at Moses 1:39, it dwarfs them all right at 400 times or plus it's been referenced in general conference. This is, I just don't have the right words to say how important this is that now we have purpose, that question that the human race has. Why am I here? We have the answer. I think Einstein would say, Where'd you get this? Oh, just a 25-year-old farmer in 1831.
John Bytheway:	01:02:04	Yeah, 1831. I'm glad you pointed that out how early this was. Joseph Fielding McConkie said once, changed my life in a class. All he said was, we read scriptures too fast. You can go past that pretty fast, but that is ... Well, I'll say it again. That's dynamite. That's amazing. Put so many other things into perspective.
Hank Smith:	01:02:32	John, you've taught me how this can help me as a parent. Would you mind just doing that again?
John Bytheway:	01:02:37	Hmm. Oh, you're so kind. And you've taught me something too, Hank, I'll circle around about the same thing, but sometimes we read that and we think it says to parents, this is your work, your glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of your children. And that's not what the Lord's saying. He says, actually, this is my work. This is my glory and I am able to do my work in the Book of Mormon. Instead of saying, Heavenly Father, you need to help my children. We can say, Heavenly

Father, will you help me help your children? That was a good one, Hank. You taught me that using this same thing. Those temple covenants, they're awesome. They're maybe more powerful than we sometimes think, and this is His work. And I hope we feel a, oh, a sense of He can do this. He's good at this. He knows what he's doing, and you've both talked about ample provision and not left one thing undone. Thank you, President Benson. I think about the people who are listening to this who are in a tough spot, a tough place, maybe emotionally, maybe physically. They are in a tough place. He's got you. The Lord's got you. He knows what he's doing. He's good at it. If you're listening, it's even better because He knows you're hearing this.

Hank Smith: 01:04:05 John, you've given me an opportunity to reference my favorite chapter in the Book of Mormon. Jacob chapter five, where the servant comes over to the Lord and he says, Hey, you put this tree in the worst spot. Like, even says it in verse 21, How comest thou hither to plant this tree? This is the poorest spot in all the land of the vineyard. And the Lord of the vineyard said unto him, Counsel me not. I knew that it was a poor spot of ground. I knew what I was doing. John, I love that when someone says to the Lord, why did you do this? This is the worst possible thing you could do. Counsel me not. I knew. I know what I'm doing. I love it.

John Bytheway: 01:04:54 Hank, thank you for grafting that in at the last moment.

Hank Smith: 01:04:58 I saw what you did there. He's the king of that, just so you know.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:05:02 The companion piece in some ways to that with Moses in a chapter you'll be covering here soon in Exodus is Moses is understandably humbled at the call to go deliver Israel, especially from Egypt where he's had a bad history, a bad past. Understandably, he's reticent. He's, whoa, who am I? Enoch like, I'm but a lad, what are you doing? In Moses' case, he's more articulate, ironically, about what the problem is. He says, it's my mouth. And we don't know totally what it is. Is it a stuttering issue? Is it, what is it? And hence, Aaron, the spokesperson, et cetera, that will be given. But the Lord, on the way to making provisions for him, he says the same thing. He says, Essentially, don't counsel me. I made your mouth. Turns out I made your mouth. I'm really well aware of what's up with your mouth. And while that's a funny moment and, like, ah, you know, you know, get Moses there for a second. It's not that. It's a comfort to say, Moses, do you really think I don't know? Do you really think the omnipotent, omniscient God of the cosmos isn't aware, which we just heard over and over and over again

between Moses one and Abraham three, that he knows, he numbers, he's very acquainted. He knows all our names and all our games, all the situations. So, I'm grateful that you brought that up because the reinforcement comes again later in Moses' life and he's struggling with the call. And we struggle with lots of calls, don't we? Yet God is like, I got you, as John said, I got you. We got this together.

John Bytheway: 01:06:43 For Moses to say, Now I know that man is nothing. It's interesting to me that the Lord doesn't say, you're great, you're awesome, you're special. He just says, I know, I am with thee. I will be with thee. And with me, we got this. So I love that Moses, I'm slow speech, I'm of a slow tongue. Does he not speak Egyptian or he doesn't speak Hebrew, he speaks Egyptian. I don't know what that was, like you said. I love the Lord's answer. I'm with you because I think sometimes we try to build up self-esteem like crazy. Here's Nephi saying, O wretched man that I am. No, Nephi, you're great, you're awesome. No, I know in whom I have trusted. With God, I can do this. And that's the answer, you know.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:07:33 That is the answer. He is the answer.

Hank Smith: 01:07:36 Phil, we've talked today about the cosmic and the personal. I've heard you tell a story that I was so touched by when it comes to the, just the personal nature of God. And that is on the steps of the testing center at BYU. Would it be okay if I ask you to share that with my friends?

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:07:57 Uh, yeah. I'd be honored. You know, it's just one of those divine signatures where you just say, okay, yeah. Only God can do that. I came from a smaller town in Idaho. I wasn't academically probably really so well prepared. That's not my teacher's fault or my school district's fault necessarily. I get to BYU as a freshman and I get to my Shakespeare class. I'd taken a Shakespeare class in high school and I get there and the teacher, the instructor reads a stanza, one of the sonnets probably, and then just says, Okay, so what kind of poetic structure is this? People are yelling it out and, you know what I mean? It's like everybody knows this and I had never even heard of what the right answer was. I'm just discouraged. I already had imposter syndrome. Things like that just kept happening and I just thought, I don't belong here. I am over my skis. This is whew. So I essentially flunk out of every no, not essentially. I did. I flunked out of every first semester class I took at BYU. It's on my transcript today. 16 credits of 0.0 GPA. Yeah. That's humbling.

Hank Smith:	01:09:07	That, yeah.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:09:08	They basically kicked me out and I deserved it. I then began to read the Book of Mormon and longer story that we started a little earlier, but I started reading the Book of Mormon and I started to get my stuff together. The Lord is very kind. He lets us repent. He begs us to repent. So as I'm repenting in lots of ways, not just spiritually, I go on a mission and I serve the Lord and he teaches me many things. I come back to BYU and as I'm there, I'm fascinatingly working harder in classes, but I'm having actually not that much academic success. And in fact, I'm really, really shocked because I go to the testing center and in the day they had the dot matrix printer, so they would print out your test result. It was like everybody knew. Like if that thing is printing a book, then you probably just wanna leave.
John Bytheway:	01:09:56	No, you walk into that little room and there's four or five of you waiting for your result. If you ace the test, print your name, uh, uh, student number, your score, and it's done. But if you missed one, you know, number 14, your answer B, correct answer C. Number 18, your answer C, correct answer B. And it's like, uh, uh, uh, uh ... And the whole room is just, ugh. Oh. Mm, stop, make it ... Oh.
Hank Smith:	01:10:24	I'm so sorry, whoever you are.
John Bytheway:	01:10:26	Please. And then they pull it off and say, Bythway, Bytheway, and you're like, thank you, that's mine.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:10:32	It was so demoralizing. It was just ridiculous. So there I am, I'm in this major I think I'm supposed to be in, at least I thought I just can't pass the test. There I am, I get this essentially a ream of paper from this test. I'm standing on the steps there reading, as I recall, it was either a 41% or a 38%, horrific. I essentially just, I've had it. I clearly can't do this. I wouldn't be surprised if we rolled the tape back if I yelled up to heaven. And I just said, I can't do this. I just can't do this. You don't always get responses to those, but I did that day. And the response was really this sweet voice with a little bit of a wink in the eye in the voice, and it said, you'll teach here. That stunned me, but not stunned me so much that I didn't retort and say, well, that's funny. I can't pass the test here. How on earth am I ever gonna teach here?
	01:11:38	But it was clear. I go about my business, I end up changing my major. I had left the university for a time. I went through the business of trying to figure this out. I finally come back to BYU and I end up in political science of all things, and then into the church educational system. A few years into being a seminary

and institute instructor, opportunity at Rick's College came up, and I had thought that would be kind of cool. I had worked for Robert Millet as a research assistant when I was a student. He taught me so many wonderful things, and I just thought, how do I get to do something like that? I thought, Well, this will be great. Ricks College, I was hired, but it became BYU Idaho before I actually got to start teaching there. President Hinckley did his prophet thing and created BYU Idaho.

01:12:22 I'm teaching there, and as I'm in the audience as he creates BYU Idaho, before I've ever even stepped into a classroom there, I have this memory that God said, the Lord said I would teach at BYU. I'm like, all right, this is actually happening. I'm teaching at BYU Idaho. So I'm like, this is great. I'm there for years. I get asked to teach at the Jerusalem Center, which was a sweet privilege. And so there I drive to Provo one day with my wife and we're in the ASB and I'm getting signed up. I literally have to be hired by BYU to teach at the Jerusalem Center. I'm sitting in the ASB and I have this reminder. Oh, yeah. The Lord said I'd teach at BYU. How about that? I'm teaching at BYU Jerusalem. How cool.

Hank Smith: 01:13:10 It worked out. Yeah, it worked out.

Dr. Philip Allred: 01:13:12 I'm thinking, yeah, the Lord's fulfilling his promises and, you know, the way I didn't expect, but here it is. Without too much preamble as I was invited to come to BYU for a project with several colleagues. And so kept our house there. In fact, Jen even stayed a semester and continued teaching. She was teaching at BYU Idaho for years. The thought was, okay, we'll just rent the house for it till we finish this little assignment. Yet, midstream in the assignment here at BYU opportunity an invitation came and here we are to stay. I have this really interesting moment where I'm being hired by BYU permanently to be in Provo. It dawns on me as I'm having communications with some of those that had asked me to come and do this, that this is exactly what the Lord had told me when it was unbelievably impossible to believe that it just was unfathomable that it could happen. Here I am. And so then maybe the kicker to it all was I teach the UNIV 101 class by assignment, Hank you do too and many others. My first section of the UNIV 101 class for the new freshmen in the testing center, I walk, I would literally walk out every day of the testing center, having taught these freshmen and go, God, you are good. You are good. How did you do that? How, in the world did you pull that off-

Hank Smith: 01:14:43 So not only are you gonna teach here, you're actually gonna teach right here.

Dr. Philip Allred:	01:14:47	Like teach in this very spot.
John Bytheway:	01:14:48	Right here.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:14:48	Like literally, he's like, I actually fulfill ... I don't let one word fall to the ground without being fulfilled. I'm like, oh my word. Thanks for drawing that out. It is a divine signature. I'm a willing participant, but he did the miracle, as he always does. Maybe as we conclude, I thought of a really cool statement that's made and it fits, particularly with Moses up on the mountain. This is René Daumal, he's a French mountaineer and writer. I find it inspiring and descriptive. He says, you can't stay on the summit forever. And Moses goes up, as we saw in episode one, he has to come back down, innocent. He goes up and down a dozen times, but the people are down, they're not in, they're not on the mountain. You can't farm on the mountain. You gotta farm in the valleys.
	01:15:38	But anyway, this French mountain climber said, You can't stay on the summit forever. You have to come down again. Why bother in the first place? And then he goes, he says this, What is above knows what is below. But what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees, one descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. Then he said this, There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know.
Hank Smith:	01:16:22	Wow.
John Bytheway:	01:16:24	That's really profound.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:16:25	I love that Moses and Abraham did the spiritual work to get on the mountaintops, to see things for themselves, but also for us. And to invite us, you too can ascend these mountains. You too are known by name. You too are sons and daughters of heavenly parents and they want the best for you and they have not left anything undone so that you can have it. Bear my witness of gratitude that the Lord is a God of miracles and a God of love and a God of power all in one. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.
Hank Smith:	01:17:01	Amen. Amen. Wow. What a great and noble episode we just had. Yeah. That was wonderful. Phil, thank you for being here.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:17:14	It's an honor, all mine.

Hank Smith:	01:17:15	Yeah.
Dr. Philip Allred:	01:17:15	Love what you guys are doing. Thank you. The gift you give us all.
John Bytheway:	01:17:19	Thank you. Hank cast your mind backward. A month or two ago when we got to go to the Church History Library Museum and somebody with white gloves on and allowed us to hold in our hands the manuscript of Moses chapter one. And I was like, Hank, take a picture. 'Cause this is such a chapter, right?
Hank Smith:	01:17:46	It's one of those where you say, if he only just gave us that one, if Joseph only gave us that one, he's a prophet, and this is one of how many. Beautiful. Phil, thank you. It's been a wonderful, wonderful day. With that, we want to thank Dr. Phil Allred for being with us today, and we wanna thank Jennifer Allred for letting us borrow him. We want to thank our executive producer, Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors, David and Verla Sorensen. In every episode, we remember our founder. Steve Sorensen, he would, I can just see him, John, he would say, Yeah, baby. We hope you'll join us next week. We have more of the Old Testament coming up on followHIM. As a thank you to our wonderful listeners, we'd love to gift you the digital version of our book, Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. It offers short, meaningful insights drawn from our past Old Testament episodes. Visit followhim.co, that's followhim.co to download your free copy today, and you'll also find the link to purchase the print edition. Thank you for being part of our followHIM family. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew. David Perry, Lisa Spice, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, Heather Barlow, Amelia Kabwika, Sydney Smith, and Annabelle Sorensen.



Hank Smith:	00:02	Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I are sharing a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we need a story you told me you have one.
John Bytheway:	00:12	Yeah, this story is from Abraham 3:25, and we've used this verse a lot. We love it. And we will prove them herewith to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them. Kind of this amazing verse about life. What's going on? Well, we're here. It's like they're watching to see if we will do what we were commanded. I think I have a daughter who just loves animals. That's Ashley. And my son, Andrew, you know them both. We were at the Hogle Zoo one year. I think Ashley was like four. Loves animals. So excited to see lions, tigers, bears, everything. We go there and guess where they spent most of their time. It was on a swing set and a jungle gym outside of the- it wasn't the animals. It was on the swing set. And I was like, oh, this is crazy.
	01:01	I remember watching Andrew so determined, he was three, to climb to the top of this jungle gym. He was struggling and he'd climb and then he'd come down. Here I am watching the whole thing. And then he'd try again. I kept thinking, should I run over there and help him? The smarter part of me, maybe some inspiration was no. Let him do it. Let him struggle. Let him try. Just think of this verse of scripture, right? Let's see what they will do maybe when life is hard. I kept wanting to help and then staying back and it took him a long time, but he finally got to the top. Even a three-year-old has a look of satisfaction and of joy. A lot of times, you know, we hear questions, "Well, why didn't the Lord just put us where we're gonna end up anyway?" Well, there's a lot of growth and a lot of struggle and a lot of triumph even that comes with seeing what we will do.
	01:58	And the whole verse will prove them to see if they will do that if, means, yeah, there's agency. We get to choose what we will do. Sometimes the Lord lets us struggle and wrestle to see what we will do. And sometimes we have those moments of, "Oh, I did this with the Lord's help. I did this. " I have a little quotation

from Elder Paul V. Johnson that I love. He just sums this up. He said, "Sometimes we want to have the growth without challenges to develop strength without struggle, but growth cannot come by taking the easy way. We clearly understand that an athlete who resists rigorous training will never become a world-class athlete. We must be careful that we don't resent the very things that will help us put on our divine nature. Not one of the trials and tribulations we face is beyond our limits because we have access to help from the Lord." So there it is. We'll prove them now herewith to see what they will do. I know he's watching, I know he's eager to help us sometimes, but maybe he's going, "They can do this. I know they can do this themselves and I want them to have the growth."

Hank Smith: 03:06 Wow. We hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcast. Then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorites.