

"The Fall of Adam and Eve"

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:

What do fig leaves, sarcasm, and hiding from God reveal about how we handle our own mistakes? John Hilton III explores the Fall, Satan's subtle tactics, God's loving preparation and pursuit, and new guidance on using different Bible translations.

Part 2:

Dr. John Hilton III continues to examine the book of Moses by reframing the Fall as a necessary "fall forward," unpacking Cain and Abel through Restoration scripture, and by showing how even humanity's darkest stories point us to a relentlessly pursuing Jesus Christ.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 - Dr. John Hilton III
- 1:27 Episode teaser
- 5:12 Bio
- 06:24 *Finding Christ in the Old Testament*
- 07:58 Using different Bible translations
- 11:38 Bible translations: an example
- 14:08 Misconceptions about translators' motives
- 20:43 *Come, Follow Me Manual*
- 23:00 Apocryphal Warren Buffett story
- 27:01 "Good, Better, Best" by President Oaks
- 29:03 Creation in daily life
- 32:26 A blueprint for life
- 35:15 Divine discontent
- 38:48 Applying Elder Bednar's "Pray Always"
- 44:12 Bless, protect, and elevate
- 47:43 Sarcasm and a warning from President Nelson
- 50:40 Fig leaves
- 53:45 Hiding from the Lord
- 58:11 Skins are superior to leaves
- 1:03:18 End of Part 1 - Dr. John Hilton III

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 - Dr. John Hilton III
- 2:13 Moses 5:1-5 - Adam and Eve offer sacrifices
- 04:59 Pumping gas and sharing the gospel
- 09:08 "We trusted …"
- 11:06 Altar symbolism
- 13:34 Different types of questions
- 15:17 The Savior understands
- 19:10 The puzzle of Cain's sacrifice
- 22:58 Satan is a spin master
- 26:01 Mark of protection
- 29:22 Hope in the darkest moment
- 31:14 The blessing of work
- 33:30 Bringing Christ at the center of every lesson
- 35:33 Elder Holland on true love
- 38:44 John Hilton's *Considering the Cross: How Calvary Connects Us to Christ*
- 40:42 Dr. Hilton bears his testimony of Jesus Christ
- 44:12 End of Part 2 -

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Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:00:03	If my hopes and dreams are bound up in success or looks or health, eventually I'm gonna be disappointed. But if I'm secure in a covering from God, that is a peace that will never leave. To me the core principle here is you do not need fig leaves when you have a coat of skins. God has given us that through Jesus Christ.
Hank Smith:	00:00:29	Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name's Hank Smith. I'm your host. I'm here with my fortunate co-host John Bytheway, John, I call you fortunate because you keep the commandments and you get to be on the followHIM Podcast. I know you like the phrase The Fortunate Fall. That's what we're gonna be talking about today.
John Bytheway:	00:00:51	It's something everybody ought to know about and I'm glad we're gonna talk about it today.
Hank Smith:	00:00:55	Yeah, John, we are honored, blessed, excited, all of the above to have returning to the show. John Hilton iii. I like to say he's so great they made three of him. John, welcome back to followHIM. We've missed you.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:01:12	Thank you. I'm so happy to be here.
Hank Smith:	00:01:15	We say we've missed you, but I get to see you frequently because we share a hallway at BYU. But I'm sure our listeners have missed you greatly.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:01:24	It's fun to be back. I'm really happy to be here.
Hank Smith:	00:01:27	Yeah, we're excited to have you John Bytheway, let's talk the Fall. What are you hoping everybody comes away with today?
John Bytheway:	00:01:37	Thanks for asking. I think you already said it. This was a fortunate thing. Was it a fall? Yes. Did it move us downward?

Yes, but it also moved us forward. I hope everybody understands when this is over. Oh, okay. This was part of the plan from the beginning. It was necessary. It's a blessing actually, and especially look differently at Adam and Eve and get them out from under the bus where many have thrown them to use the metaphor. Adam and Eve were pre buses, but you know what I mean. Get them out from under the caravan.

Hank Smith: 00:02:19 I love it. John, you and I have been talking about this for a long time. Tell me what you're excited about today.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:02:26 I'm just so excited because as we dive into this early part of the Old Testament, we realize just how important the Old Testament is. Whether you're thinking of from the Atonement to Zion or today the Fall, or prophets. It just reminds us that the Old Testament is the parent scripture. It's what is the foundation of everything and really Creation and Fall that is the foundation. So I'm just really excited to dive into this topic and what I hope we'll see is that in some ways we'll see kind of like a game of hide and seek. Adam and Eve are hiding from God. Later, Cain will hide from God. But in both these stories and in others we'll discuss today we're gonna see that you are never too lost to be found. To me, that's one of the ultimate messages from these chapters. You and your loved ones are not too lost to be found.

Hank Smith: 00:03:15 This is an important topic for me because I found that when people understand the Fall, they become more grateful for the Savior and His Atonement. President Benson, I quote this frequently when talking about the Fall. Just as a man, or we could say a woman does not really desire food until they are hungry, they do not desire the salvation of Christ until they know why they need Christ and no one adequately and properly knows why they need Christ until he or she understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind. Frequently when we think, oh, why is this person really not becoming converted to Jesus? It might not be that they don't understand Jesus and his love, they might not understand the Fall.

John Bytheway: 00:04:04 No one knows why he needs Christ. I heard that on my mission and maybe many of our listeners heard, oh, thanks, I don't need that, and I love President Benson's explanation. Robert Millet has talked about that if we only think of Jesus as our best friend in heaven and oh, he's the Redeemer, he is the Savior, he's going to reverse and beyond the effects of the Fall. He's the Lord God omnipotent. I mean, he is not just our celestial cheerleader, I think is the word. When you understand the Fall,

		then you think we need this Redeemer and yeah so I'm so glad you said that and excited to talk about it today.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:04:45	There's a passage in Isaiah that says something to the effect of God holds the universe within the span of His hand. So a span is, you know, the distance from your thumb to your pinky. And when you think about how immense the universe is and God holds all of that in the palm of his hands, that's not the kind of person that you invite into your life to be your helper.
Hank Smith:	00:05:06	Right.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:05:06	And so we have to recognize this is God.
Hank Smith:	00:05:09	Right.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:05:09	He is a totally different realm. I love what you're saying there, John.
Hank Smith:	00:05:13	Yeah. Now before we go any further, John, there may be a couple of listeners who don't know our friend John Hilton III. They might say, I know John Hilton the first. I know John Hilton II. I don't, I didn't know they made a third. Tell us about the trip here. The triple.
John Bytheway:	00:05:30	Yeah, absolutely. In fact, I had several John Hilton III books on my shelf. I grabbed my Voices of the Book of Mormon one so that I could find the bio in the back. Then I'm gonna ask John to add to it anything that we don't know that has happened since. John Hilton III, a professor of religious education at Brigham Young University. He has a master's degree from Harvard, a PhD from Brigham Young University, both in education. He's published several books including Considering the Cross, how Calvary Connects Us with Christ. I have that one too. He's also the author of the video course and podcast Seeking Jesus. John and his wife Lani, have six children. John loves teaching, reading, spending time with his family, doing humanitarian work, snowboarding, and practicing magic tricks. I also know he has a master's class in the Book of Mormon online. He has one called Finding Christ in the Old Testament. That's a new course, right John? Is that just YouTube? How do you get to that?
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:06:31	Yeah, you find it on YouTube or on podcasts, just search Finding Christ in the Old Testament. Or you could just Google John Hilton Finding Christ, it's coming out this year each week with Come Follow Me. It's just an opportunity to dig deep 'cause sometimes there's a lot in the Old Testament. The part that at

		least for me that really shines is how Jesus Christ is really on every page. And if you think about it, this is the scripture that Jesus himself read when he was growing up. It's kind of ironic because sometimes we say, I've read all the scriptures except the Old Testament. Well, that was the scripture that Jesus read. And in fact, if you think about it, there are more pages in the Old Testament than all of the other standard works combined. So if we did Come, Follow Me by page count, we'd spend two years in the Old Testament and then two years with everything else. I'm just really excited to be studying the Old Testament this year.
Hank Smith:	00:07:24	I went to JohnHiltonIII.com and there it is right at the top. I can click on Finding Christ. It brings up finding Christ in the Old Testament. It lists all the classes that will be available. I'm excited to spend some time there.
John Bytheway:	00:07:39	Wow, that's great.
Hank Smith:	00:07:41	And if I don't like something, I'll just come knock on his office door and be like, hey. Not very many people get that opportunity right? Now, before we jump into the Come, Follow Me manual, John, you and I have been talking for a little while about a significant change in church policy.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:07:58	Yeah. Just recently the church handbook was adjusted around Bibles. I'm gonna read the new language. Before I do let me just maybe help paint a picture. Imagine there's a 14-year-old young woman. She's struggling in her life. Her parents are getting divorced. She feels like everything's falling apart. She goes to her seminary teacher and says, what do I do? And her seminary teacher says, you should read the scriptures. The scriptures have the answers you need. That is great advice. This 14-year-old goes home and she opens up her Bible. Now, as you know, the King James Version of the Bible is written at a 12th grade reading level in the United States. 51% of American adults, not kids, adults, struggle to read text at a seventh grade level. So there's a gap between what the King James requires and what the average adult can read, let alone the average 14-year-old.
	00:08:51	She opens up the Bible, reads a few verses, doesn't really understand what she's reading. She closes the Bible and says, well, I guess the scriptures don't work for me. Maybe I'll see what's on TikTok. Somewhere in the world this last week. Something like that happened, and that's why I think this announcement is so significant as we talk about it. Just remember that maybe you yourself, you might be like, well, I read at a 20th grade level, that's awesome. You might not need

this announcement or handbook change, but somebody else that you know, maybe a child, a grandchild, someone that you teach, they might need it. The church handbook was recently changed to say, generally members use a church preferred or church published edition of the Bible in church classes and meetings. So in English, that would be the King James. Now, it used to say, when possible you should do this.

00:09:42 And let's face it, it's always possible to read from the King James. So going from when possible to generally that's a softening. This is a new sentence in the handbook. It also goes on to say, other Bible translations may also be used, meaning you're allowed to use other Bible translations in church meetings. So if you're teaching Primary or Seminary or in a Relief Society class or Sacrament Meeting, even generally we use the King James, but other translations may also be used. Another sentence that's new, the handbook says, some individuals may benefit from translations that are both doctrinally clear and also easier to understand. And the Church has a Holy Bible page, which you can find online. They also add two more sentences. It says the Bible can be difficult to understand. It would be appropriate to use a simpler Bible translation for youth and children or any who would benefit.

00:10:45 This is a big deal. I mean, to be honest, I cannot think of something that a person could do in their Old Testament study that would improve their experience more than reading a translation that they can understand. In my mind, I picture maybe a mom, a dad, and they've got five kids ranging from, I don't know, four to 14. You can kind of see people's eyes glazing over during scripture study. You can pick a different version that's written at a third grade level or a seventh grade level, and it can totally change a family study. I don't wanna dwell too much on this, but I think it's fun to put Hank Smith on the spot. Hank, do you have access to the book of Colossians? Could you by chance turn to Colossians chapter three for us in the King James? We're gonna go to book of Colossians, chapter three, verse five, and Hank, I'm just wondering if you could read that one for us.

Hank Smith: 00:11:38 Colossians 3:5 KJV, mortify, therefore your members, which are upon the earth, fornication, uncleaness, inordinate affection, evil, cons- you did this on purpose, concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:11:58 This is admittedly a hard verse. We might read this and be like, I don't even know what this is talking about. I don't think anyone knows what evil concupiscence is, so don't worry about that.

Hank Smith:	00:12:07	Thank you.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:12:08	But recently I was talking with a group of teenagers and I asked them, what does the word fornication mean? And none of them knew what it meant, which maybe in some ways you're like, well, that's kind of a good thing.
Hank Smith:	00:12:19	Yeah.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:12:20	But think about that 14-year-old young woman. Now she's 15 years old, her parents are divorced. She feels this empty hole in her heart and this boy is starting to pay attention to her and he is asking her to do things that she kind of knows aren't right, but she's not sure. I don't know if this verse is gonna help her, but Hank, since you've got your magical website that allows you to see different Bible translations, try the NIV, the New International Version. Same verse, Colossians 3:5, but let's hear it in the NIV.
Hank Smith:	00:12:47	Okay, here it is. Put to death therefore whatever belongs to your earthly nature, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:12:59	So which of these verses are gonna help that 15-year-old make the right choice? We are really teaching a rising generation that spends less time reading, that spends less time delving into thick texts. So again, the King James Version might be great for you. There are probably some people who fit what the handbook says. Some individuals may benefit from translations that are easier to understand. Hank, what's this website? What do you use?
Hank Smith:	00:13:27	I use bible hub.com. There's plenty of others. I generally use Bible hub.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:13:34	When the church announced this, in the Church News article, they quote Relief Society General President Camille N. Johnson saying, if we want individuals to develop a habit of reading the scriptures, if we want mothers and fathers to read the scriptures with their children, it is helpful for them to have the option of using a Bible translation that teaches doctrine in a way they can understand. I wanna spend time with this because at least for me, when I was growing up, I had a very suspicious vibe about other Bible translations. It's kinda like, oh probably like they've taken out the plain and precious truths in this modern Bible. I can't trust it. But in the newsroom release about this handbook change, Elder Klebingat of The Seventy is quoted as

saying there's a misconception that modern translations of the Bible are less than faithful to the ancient sources, that in modernizing the language, translators have compromised or dumbed down the doctrine. In many cases, that simply isn't true. Modern translators often have access to manuscripts that were not available to early translators and most modern translations were produced by faithful scholars and linguists who are utterly convinced that the Bible is the Word of God, the simplified language they use supports rather than compromises understanding of the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

John Bytheway: 00:15:00 I think I can anticipate what a lot of people are thinking and that's John, tell us which ones, tell us which one. You've already mentioned the NIV. What else can you give us that's helpful? Cause even the NIV is probably more than seventh grade or is it higher than seventh grade?

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:15:17 Yeah, NIV is actually seventh grade. You know it's really interesting. Along with this announcement on the church's Bible page, they actually list in different languages, alternate translations. There's a church preferred edition, in this case in English, it's the King James, but then they do list several others that they've vetted to say these are also doctrinally clear translations. So these are from the church's Bible page. One is the New Revised Standard Version. I think that's a popular one among academics. It's ecumenical so people from lots of different faith traditions worked on it. Emily Belle Freeman, I've heard her say that the English Standard Version is her favorite. It retains a lot of the majesty of the King James language, but also has simpler text. We've talked about the NIV. The NIV it's actually for 40 years has been the bestselling Bible translation in America.

00:16:11 And that kinda surprised me because growing up in the church, I just assumed everyone read the King James. But that has not been true for decades. Maybe if you live in an area where there's lots of Baptists, for example, reading the NIV might be fun because then you have a Bible in common with your neighbors. I also really wanna highlight the New International Readers Version, the NIRV. This one's written at a third grade level. It's also included on the church's Bible page. If I was doing family scripture study with kids under 10, I would definitely consider using the New International Readers Version. All of these, you can either buy on Amazon or at Hobby Lobby or wherever you get Bibles. You can also like Bible hub, like what Hank said, there's the Bible app, which has been downloaded more than a billion times. All of these and many other versions are available there for free. It actually is kind of fun. Like in my

family, we bought copies off Amazon and just enjoy reading a Bible translation that's appropriate for the reading levels of our family. I know that in saying this, there's probably some listeners out there that are like, oh, I think this is going off the rails. Like this sounds total like, you know, utter apostasy. But I mean all I've been doing is just reading from the handbook and the church newsroom and the church articles.

00:17:32 One more quote from Sister Tamara Runia first counselor in the Young Women General Presidency. Again, this is right from the church newsroom page. She said, we can all benefit from translations made by our Christian brothers and sisters to enhance our study and faith as disciples of Christ. Our hope is that everyone will feel welcome and respected no matter the translation they connect with and choose to use. What matters most is how the scriptures speak to our spirits and draw us closer to God as we read every day. And I just love that idea. Probably some people have unfortunately felt like a second class citizen. Maybe they read in Relief Society or Elders Quorum, a different Bible translation and someone took 'em aside afterwards and said, hey, you shouldn't do that. And Sister Runia is saying no. Everyone should feel respected and valued whatever translation is helping them connect with God.

00:18:28 One other quick thought on this, if we went back to several hundred years ago, most people were not reading the scriptures anyway. They were listening to the scriptures. So don't be afraid of listening to some of these simpler Bible translations. Recently I listened to a book, it's called the NIV listeners Audio Bible. It's narrated by a professional voice actor his name's Max McLean. It's so good. Listening at 1.4 speed you can listen to the whole Old Testament in about 40 hours. Okay I did do Leviticus at three times speed, but like I am not making this up. I was driving to Salt Lake, listening to Second Samuel in the NIV. It is a fascinating story. I was so into the story. I missed the exit to the airport. Sometimes it's not that the Old Testament is hard, it's that reading a thousand page book at a 12th grade level is hard. There's an opportunity here to take advantage of these simpler translations 'cause the bottom line is the more clearly we understand the scriptures, the more clearly we see Jesus Christ and that's what it's all about.

John Bytheway: 00:19:35 Right. And I think too, the Old Testament is already so long ago and such a different culture, but Hank what's one of our favorite statements, the past is like a foreign country. They do things differently there. It's already a foreign country, at least to be able to read it a little more understandable gets us partway there, right?

Hank Smith:	00:19:56	Yeah.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:19:57	Amen.
John Bytheway:	00:19:58	I like that. I have a living Bible on my shelf that says Children's Bible on it. In the past I've gone there, read it, the Old Testament in there and then read the same passage in King James. But thank you for talking about this in such depth.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:20:12	I really do think if there's one thing you could do to improve your Old Testament study this year, it would be to read a simpler Bible translation.
Hank Smith:	00:20:19	Yeah. Especially with your children. How many times have each of us heard from someone saying, I just don't understand the scriptures. This might be the chance where they, wait, I actually do understand this.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:20:33	Especially Isaiah. Oof. I hope that you don't mind, but as we jump in now to these chapters in Genesis, I'll be using the New International Version today.
Hank Smith:	00:20:43	Okay. And if I don't even understand that, I can come over to the New International Readers Version for ages eight and above on the church's page here. I'm excited. Let me read from the Come, Follow Me manual and we'll jump in. The lesson this week is entitled the Fall of Adam and Eve. The manual starts this way. At first, the story of Adam and Eve might seem like a tragedy. Adam and Eve were cast out of the beautiful Garden of Eden. They were sent into a world of pain, sorrow, and death, and they were separated from their heavenly Father. The truths restored through the prophet Joseph Smith in the book of Moses give us a unique perspective on the Fall. Yes, the garden of Eden was beautiful. Adam and Eve needed more than beautiful surroundings. They needed, and we all need, an opportunity to grow. Leaving the Garden of Eden was the necessary step toward returning to God and eventually becoming like him. That meant facing opposition, making choices, making mistakes, learning to repent and trusting the Savior whose atonement makes possible progression and the joy of our redemption. When you read about the Fall of Adam and Eve focus not on the seeming tragedy, but on the possibilities, not on the paradise Adam and Eve lost, but on the glory their choice allows us to receive. What a wonderful way to start. Okay, John, where do we want to go?

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:22:06 Now, we're primarily today in Genesis three and four in Moses four and five, but I thought maybe just to kind of ease us into the Fall, if we could just review a little bit of what we talked about last week with the Creation. I just think there's so many practical life lessons like in Genesis chapter one, verse four, we read God separated light from the darkness. So the first step of creation, and I think we've talked about this together before, I think you guys feel the same way, is that you can look at the story of the creation in the Bible and think about how does this relate to my life and the things that I'm trying to create, maybe create a strong family, or maybe I'm trying to write a book or create something in my job. And the way that I apply this verse into my life is just to think about how do I separate out the light from the darkness?

00:22:54 What's light is essential and all the stuff that's not essential, there's a thousand distractions and separating those out can be really challenging. There's an apocryphal story, it's probably not true, but it's about Warren Buffett who's talking to his pilot Mike Flint. Warren Buffett told Mike Flint to make a list of his 25 most important goals and then to circle the top five. Now Flint had two lists, the top five and then the other 20. And he thought that Warren Buffett was gonna tell him, okay, focus on the top five and then do the other 20 as your schedule permits. But Buffett said, no, no, no. Those other 20, those are your avoid at all costs. Because if you think about it, what's gonna most tempt you away from your top goals are other goals that you're interested in that are good, but they're just not at the top.

00:23:47 The enemy of the best isn't the bad. It's the good. It's the pretty good 'cause we can get distracted there. And I know that some of us might think, man, that I don't know, that sounds hard kind of organizing, trying to separate out the light from the darkness. But you remember in the account of creation in Abraham chapter four, just over and over again, you see that word, organize, organize, organize. Organization is a godly activity. Here we're in the month of January, thinking about how do I separate out in my life at the start of this new year, what really matters from what matters a little less. So there could be lots of good things in a person's life, but what are the most important? It reminds me of Luke chapter 10. It's a dinner party. Mary and Martha are having Jesus over for dinner and Martha's worried about a hundred things.

00:24:36 She's making sure all the toys are picked up and the toilet seats down and all the food's ready. Then she looks over and she sees her sister Mary doing nothing. Mary is just sitting at the feet of

Jesus. So Martha's kind of ticked, right? She says, Lord, don't you care my sister, she's not even coming to help me. I could be wrong, but I, I think the fact that Martha said this to Jesus means that Martha thinks Jesus is gonna take her side. She's thinking Jesus will say something like, behold if your sister asks you for an hour of work in the kitchen, go with her twain or something like that. That's what Martha thinks is gonna happen. But instead Jesus says, Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. I put my name in there, John. John, you are worried and distracted by many things. And then he says, one thing is needful. The one needful thing was what Mary was doing sitting at the feet of Jesus. So in our lives, whatever we're creating, we've gotta separate out the light from the darkness to make sure that we have time for what matters most. Especially that one needful thing.

John Bytheway: 00:25:47 You guys have probably heard that analogy about get the big rocks in first. That reminds me of that type of a thing. What are the big rocks I gotta do every day? And I'm so guilty of that. I'll fit in my scripture study after we get done with our Amazon Prime list or something like that. instead of the other way around. What are the big rocks I have to do every day? That's a great insight about, what did you say, the pretty good is the enemy of the best,

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:26:12 Right. One thing that's interesting about the big rocks analogy is, we've probably seen it where you've got the big rocks, little rocks and the dirt, and if you put 'em in the big rocks first, then it all fits. And that's an awesome object lesson. But there's also a shortcoming to it because you know that before that class started, some clever teacher measured out the exact amount of big rocks, little rocks, sand and water that would fit in the jar. But in real life, no one's measuring that out. Like I think that there's a lot of us, we have more big rocks than we can put. Sometimes it's a matter of focusing on what is the rock, the one rock, Jesus Christ, the biggest rock, and how do I put Him first and then what's the second? You know what I mean? Because there's some of us who are listening and we're just too busy. We have too many big rocks. I think that's an important part of this. Separating out light from darkness.

Hank Smith: 00:27:02 A very famous business book from 20 years ago is Good to Great. The famous quote from the book, there's many. Good is the enemy of great. Most people will look back and realize they did not have a great life because it was just so easy to settle for a good life. I like what you're saying, John, is it's kind of a good, better, best as well. Well I can get a lot of goods in there and I fit in a couple of betters and I completely miss the best.

John Bytheway:	00:27:32	The idea that there's not even enough time for all of the good. There's so much good, so many good books for example. I don't have time. There's millions of books in the Library of Congress. There's not time. I heard Elder Joe J. Christensen once talk about, I don't remember, this was years ago, but 29 million volumes. He said, if you read a book a week for the rest of your life, you'd get a couple of thousand. There's not time for the good books. So coming up with what are the best books, and that's a scriptural phrase, that's section 88. What are the best books? That's a good exercise.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:28:08	And I think that that's part of the creation process. Separating the light from the darkness, figuring out, okay, I have a limited time. Where's God calling me to put my priorities? One of the places for all of us that he's gonna call us to put priorities is in creating something. As I read Genesis one, I can almost feel God's joy in creation. From verse 21, God created every living thing God saw it was good. God blessed them. I can just picture God blessing all of the creations. Verse 31, God saw all that he had made and it was very good. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf said, creating contributes to our heavenly Father's perfect happiness. You don't need money, position, or influence in order to create something of beauty. Our birthright is to seek and experience eternal happiness. One of the ways we find this is by creating things. I just love that for me, I've been picked up the guitar as a recent hobby. I will never be a professional guitarist. I will almost certainly never put anything on Spotify, but I can have fun experiencing the joy of creation and playing a little song. I hope for all of us we can experience this. President Uchtdorf finishes the quote, he says, what you create doesn't have to be perfect. Don't let the voice of critics paralyze you. Whether that voice comes from the outside or the inside, we can just experience joy in creation.
Hank Smith:	00:29:39	Occasionally John, when I read that God will judge all men according to their works, you could think of the word works there as like works of art. I will judge them based on their creativeness.
John Bytheway:	00:29:53	Their gallery.
Hank Smith:	00:29:54	Yeah, their gallery, their works.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:29:56	I failed art in sixth grade, so what does that mean for me?
Hank Smith:	00:29:59	Yeah. Well, I just like the idea that God instead of let's look at the right and wrongs of your life, let's look at everything you

made. Let's look at all that you created. John Bytheway likes to say everybody has a book in 'em, at least one book John says.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:30:14 But there's so many other things you could create, whether it's art or music or a beautiful family or a loving home. There are so many beautiful things that we can create.

Hank Smith: 00:30:23 A meal.

John Bytheway: 00:30:24 An article was out on the Church News about President Eyring and his watercolors. And I remember that Elder Scott used to paint watercolors too and loved the idea of light and shadow. And I thought, how wonderful that they take time as busy as these brothers must be, to take time to create and to paint something. And I think you're right, John. There's a joy that comes in that. I love the Creation story. Like this is good. Just the idea of creating something and going, oh, this is good. This looks really good.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:30:58 And there's joy in it. There's joy in it.

Hank Smith: 00:31:00 This is a question we didn't get to talk about last week and I'd like to ask both of you about it. The Lord seems very interested in us hearing this Creation story. It occurs twice in Genesis once in chapter one and then start over again in chapter two. Then we hear it in the book of Moses, the book of Abraham, and in the presentation of the Endowment, John Hilton, one of the reasons the Lord wants us to read this story and know this story is because he's telling us you're creators. Create.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:31:32 Absolutely. I think there are so many lessons from the Creation. It's one of those timeless stories where you can gain new truths from it at different times in your life. Maybe I can share just another one you mentioned Good to Great. This is another book in that genre is Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. There, Stephen R. Covey talks about begin with the end in mind as the second habit. If we look at Moses chapter three, verse five and seven, we read, I the Lord God created all things of which I have spoken spiritually before they were naturally upon the face of the earth. All things were before created, but spiritually were they created and made according to my word. That's another practical life lesson that we can learn from the Creation. I think this is why we're hearing the Creation so much is because in some ways it's a common sense lesson.

00:32:26 Before you can have a beautiful plate of cookies, there has to be a recipe or before there's a house, there's a blueprint, or before

there's a dress, there's a sewing pattern. Everything is created twice. And we see that in the Creation story. There's a spiritual creation and then a physical creation, and that gives us a template for our own lives. I dunno if this might be too personal, but just a little experience that I had. I'd been home from my mission for about four months. I met a beautiful girl, asked her on a date. She said, no. I waited a few days, asked her out again. She said, yes, our date was magical. We both had Franklin Covey planners. Hank, you might be too young for this, but I know John knows how cool the Franklin Covey planner was, and you know, I'm talking about all this stuff.

00:33:11 I dropped her off at the end of our date, I'm driving home listening to my mix tape. A U2 song comes on, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For. And I was like, that song is, that song is false doctrine. I have totally found the person I'm looking for. I'm deeply in love. I go home that night, as I'm praying, I'm not making this up. This is true. I kind of had this uneasy feeling inside that I was not good enough for this young lady. And as I continued to pray and read the scriptures, it was like a clear revelation from the Lord saying, yes, you are actually not good enough for her. She was doing all these great things in her life. I watched a lot of television, right? There's like this big gap between us. To make a long story short, I decided to do what we've been talking about here in Moses, to spiritually create the kind of person that I wanted to become over the next four months. Grabbed my patriarchal blessing and the scriptures and spent time in the temple.

00:34:04 And I really took to heart this idea from Elder Richard G. Scott. He said, you need a retreat of peace and quiet where periodically you can ponder and let the Lord establish the direction of your life. So that's what I did. I took time over Christmas break, created all of these, I wouldn't call them goals, it was more like I was trying to tap into the vision of what God knew I could become, spiritually create who I would be four months later and over the next four months, I did many of those things. I still wasn't to her level, but I was a lot better. Again, just to make a long story short, I asked her out on our second date in April and a year later we got married. I am a true believer. Thanks Lani. I am a true believer that God has a vision for us. It's not like there's only one path or one destiny that we can do. We obviously have our agency, but a lot of times God has revelation he wants to give us, including about the things that we can create, even creating ourselves. And if we tap into that vision, that can really help us as we try to spiritually create the person that we're gonna become.

John Bytheway:	00:35:15	Hmm. Thank you John. I love the idea of divine discontent. I mean, imagine how different if the Lord just said, oh, you're great the way you are, but he let you know, actually you could be better. What's that joke, Hank, my wife gave me a mug that said, get better soon. And I said, I'm not sick. And she said, I know. I just think you should be better. So it's interesting to me that we might think love means just saying, oh, you're fine the way you are, but how wonderful to have somebody that looks at you and says, I can see more in you than you see in yourself. I've always wondered if Ammaron, when he met Mormon and said to him, I perceive that thou art a sober child and are quick to observe. That he was seeing things that Mormon didn't see in himself, and if he was going, really? It gave him something to aspire to.
Hank Smith:	00:36:09	Yeah. John's, John's, I should.
John Bytheway:	00:36:11	You can call us John squared.
Hank Smith:	00:36:14	Yeah, John squared. I think one of the most empowering moments for any person is when they realize they can create the life that they want. It's like the brother of Jared where the Lord says, bring me an idea. I can light it up. Bring me something and the brother of Jared goes to work and creates, and here's my idea, and the Lord makes it work. When I speak to youth groups, I'll say, you are the children of creators. Now create, go, move. You wanna be a doctor? Okay, go become a doctor. You wanna be the best mom there is? Ok go become the best mom there is. You wanna be a doctor and the best mom there is, ok, go do that. Let's go. Let's move. Let's create. Let's not wait. Let's not wait to be acted upon. Let's act. John, I really appreciate what you're talking about here and it helps me understand why the Lord wants me to read this story and see this story so often.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:37:06	Yeah. He wants you to see it over and over again. There's a verse in Jeremiah 29. It is so beautiful. I don't know why we don't read this more often. Jeremiah 29:11 says, I know the plans I have for you declarest the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future. I love that we can become co-creators with God. He has a plan for us, and that plan is for hope. Everyone, we all have a future and there's probably someone listening right now that is feeling really down and discouraged and thinking, I don't know. Maybe there's nothing for me. God has a plan for you. God has plans to give you hope in the future. I just testify that's true.
Hank Smith:	00:37:52	Yeah, I'm sure both of you would agree with me. It's crucial to understand that the principle the Lord gives over and over,

		small and simple things bring about great things. You don't have to say, okay, I'm upending my entire life right now. I'm gonna do everything different. Start with a small and simple thing that you can do every day and let that build. That's the Lord's way. Line upon line. Small and simple things a piece at a time.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:38:18	That's the pattern with creation too. One day at a time, one day at a time.
John Bytheway:	00:38:23	Isn't there a famous Navy commander who wrote a book and his first chapter was, Make Your Bed.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:38:29	I love that.
John Bytheway:	00:38:30	Start with just making your bed. Stephen Covey used to talk when somebody was in just a bad cycle or whatever. He said, make a commitment, keep it, make a commitment, keep it, make a commitment. Keep it. Even if it's only just one. And this sense of integrity in you starts to grow. Cool ideas.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:38:48	As we drilled into spiritual creation, I gave one application trying to create a spiritual vision of the kind of person you could become. But there's other ways we could apply this principle. Hank, you've mentioned to me just in private conversations about how Elder Bednar's application that he brought up has really touched you. Do you wanna say anything about that?
John Bytheway:	00:39:06	It changed me because I was not a great morning pray-er. I was very good evening prayers, very consistent with my evening prayers. When I got up in the morning, I didn't know what to say. Like, well, it's been a good night's rest, not much has happened since we last talked. Then Elder Bednar gave this talk.
	00:39:25	I'm sorry. That's funny. Not much has really happened. There was a lot of inhaling and exhaling, but that was about it.
Hank Smith:	00:39:35	Yeah I don't have a lot to report because it's night. Elder Bednar gave a talk called Pray Always, in which he said the story of the Creation can help us with our prayers. That our morning prayer can be a spiritual creation to our day. We're looking ahead, this is what I'm hoping to do. This is what I'm hoping to create. And then our evening prayers can be a return and report. How did it go? The problem is usually when the Lord returns and reports, he did everything perfectly. I return and report and say, I did nothing. I did nothing that we planned on doing. I got started, I got distracted, and I did not. And the Lord says, it is not good. Well you have a chance to do it again tomorrow. And that, Elder

		Bednar said, is part of praying always. Spiritual creation, return and report, spiritual creation, return and report.
John Bytheway:	00:40:27	Beautiful.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:40:28	One last thing I wanna share, and this connects back with what you were saying, Hank about small and simple things and not getting overwhelmed. In her book, Grace to Become Emily Belle Freeman wrote, within the beautiful imagery of the Creation, in the midst of every step, there's an oft repeated phrase. God saw that it was good. She continues, it is my nature to wait until the project is completed, until the work is finished to evaluate whether or not my work is good. Not God. He saw the goodness in every step of the progression. From the story of the Creation we learn that our Father is just as interested in day-to-day progress as he is in the finished product, we sometimes forget this is true.
	00:41:12	Then Emily says, and I love this quote, we must remember that God never expected the results of day six on day two. On day two, he was thrilled with the results of day two. He declared it good. And I just think so often in our lives we compare maybe our day two with someone else's day six, and we wind up feeling discouraged. We don't have to do that. Here's the last thing President Freeman concludes with. She says, if God were to whisper down from heaven tonight as you drift off to sleep, do you know what I think He would tell you? You are already good. I just really believe that. I think that's another beautiful lesson and another reason why we need to hear the Creation story over and over again.
John Bytheway:	00:41:59	I think it's an old saying, God passed his creations in review and called them good, including you.
Hank Smith:	00:42:08	I love that.
John Bytheway:	00:42:08	It's nice.
Hank Smith:	00:42:09	We're not here to earn our value. We brought our value with us. John, what do you wanna do next?
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:42:15	Let's go with Adam and Eve to the garden. Everything's wonderful. You got, fruit is growing spontaneously. You can have strawberries, blueberries, pineapple, coconut, whatever you want. I mean, Eden is the original all you can eat buffet. God told Adam, you are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and

evil for when you eat from it, you will certainly die. There are so many options. You can eat from every tree. Just not this one. Notice how Satan twists that when he comes to Eve. He says, did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden? That's actually not what God said. He's twisting it. Satan is not interested in the truth. Can you hear this? The sarcasm, did God really say this?

00:43:07 Now, God didn't say that, but Satan is focused on the mockery, the ridicule. That's a powerful lesson for us today. I'm scrolling through social media and there's a post. Do you really believe in a book translated by magical rocks, just ridicule. No mention of witnesses who gave their lives for the book. No mention of the spiritual power of the Book of Mormon. No mention of the intellectual evidences of the Book of Mormon, dismissing all of that with sarcasm, ridicule. That's the devil's trap from the very beginning. He's not interested in a meaningful conversation or a fair debate. He wants to plant doubt. Don't be surprised when you see that same strategy today. Satan's lies continue. So then Satan says, you will not certainly die if you eat the fruit of the Tree of Life. For God knows that when you eat from it, your eyes will be open and you will be like God knowing good and evil.

00:44:04 In a subtle way what Satan is saying to Eve is something like, well, God's commandments really aren't gonna benefit you. He knows that actually you'll get a better benefit if you eat from the tree, but God is trying to hold you back. And we can hear the same thing today, right? Like with the word of wisdom. Oh, that's not gonna really help you. That's gonna hold you back from what you can become. Oh, living God's law of chastity. That's not meant to bless, protect you and elevate you. That's meant to keep you from having fun. In each case, the message is the same. God's laws are holding us back. That's what Satan, that's his original lie to Eve in the garden. I mean, it reminds me of Pinocchio. The blue fairy tells Pinocchio like, don't go to Treasure Island, but it just seems so fun. So he goes and finds out too late that actually there was a purpose behind the rule.

Hank Smith: 00:44:56 I hear the adversary saying, you can't trust him. He said that, he didn't mean that. And actually he's not telling you the truth. Just that planting those seeds of doubt and that, how common is that today? Did that really happen? Did you really have that spiritual experience? I'm not sure you did. I'm not sure you actually felt what you think you felt.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:45:21 Yeah. Amen.

John Bytheway:	00:45:23	The mindset of God is trying to limit you or hold you back. I love Elder Kearon's recent, you know, talk that he's in relentless pursuit of you. He is trying to bring you home. His plan is not to keep you out, it's to bring you home. So that shift of mindset is opposite from what Satan is trying to convince.
Hank Smith:	00:45:42	Yeah. John Hilton, I love what you just said, that the sarcasm and the dismissal is so common today. One thing that is somewhat difficult to maybe get a young person to understand is that the truth is always more complicated and nuanced than a lie. So if someone can say something in 30 seconds and it's done, it's probably not the truth. This quick dismissal, these TikTok videos, they're effective, but it is not the way to get to the truth.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:46:14	Yeah. It's kind of like our friend Steven Harper talks about, you've gotta think slow, you've gotta slow it down. A Christian pastor named Timothy Keller, he gave a sermon and he's the one who highlighted this idea of the sarcasm and the dismissal that Satan's using that where I'm drawing that from. For me, it's easy to get sucked into that. You just hear a soundbite and you're like, wow, well I guess I better throw all this stuff away, but no, no, no. Steve Harper says, slow it down. Let's think carefully about it. And when you do, you can see through Satan's lies. But we do have to slow it down rather than just grab the soundbite and go.
Hank Smith:	00:46:53	Feel like we have the entire story. It reminds me of Dr. Maclane said to us once, his friend said, I read it all. Did you? You read it all. How long did that take you to read it all? We sometimes think, oh, I have all the information. When a dismissal, a sarcastic dismissal is not all the information.
John Bytheway:	00:47:15	Yeah sometimes when we're reading words, we don't hear the tone of voice. I think one of the good things about emojis is they add a tone of voice. You can hear a Korihor tone of voice in the way Satan talks. When you read Korihor you can hear this snarky sarcasm. You know, you're deranged, you're foolish, you're yoked. I am here to liberate you from all these commandments type of a thing. You can feel that tone of voice here.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:47:43	Definitely. Now I wanna switch for a moment to Moses chapter four, verse 12. It adds in a little detail, and you can read this detail in different ways, but in the context that we've been talking about, the lie, the sarcasm. Think about what do I do when I am scrolling through social media and I hear those lies and sarcasms? Do I read all the comments? Do I dig in more or

do I just walk away? In verse, Moses 4:12, it says, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it became pleasant to the eyes. Again, there's different ways that you could read this, but in the context that we're talking about, to me the word became that over time the fruit changed in appearance of what was forbidden. Started to look desirable. And that is the same thing if I'm listening to sarcastic attacks on, lies about Jesus Christ, over time that's gonna become more appealing. It's a warning, kind of like what President Nelson said, I'm paraphrasing, but he said something like, don't spend time with other doubters and then be surprised that your own faith is waning. You can't hang around the tree that you're not supposed to be partaking of.

Hank Smith: 00:49:02 I really like that principle there, John. When Jesus told Peter, you're gonna deny me three times, the worst possible place to go if he doesn't wanna do that is where he goes. If you truly don't want to do that, stay away from the situation that's going to put you in his position where you could fall.

John Bytheway: 00:49:18 This may be a stretch, but Moroni, well, I'm not dead. I make not myself known unto mine enemies. It's like I don't go where my enemies are. Why would I do that? I don't go where they're trying to kill me. I don't go where it's dangerous to be. And maybe we make the same parallel.

Hank Smith: 00:49:37 Amen. I love this discussion that we're having about Eve and these principles that you can get from her interaction with the adversary. John Bytheway, I know that you are in touch with what recent prophets and apostles have said about this interaction.

John Bytheway: 00:49:55 I remember President Nelson giving a talk in October of 2017 called The Book of Mormon: What Would Your Life Be Like Without It? And at the very end, and you only, it's not in the talk, you only see it if you go online. But he left this thing called President Nelson's Book of Mormon lists at the end. It's in the Liahona magazine and also online. He listed all these things and you both know that 2 Nephi chapter two talks about the Fall and gives us a lot of interesting information. But this is just one of the points President Nelson had under the Book of Mormon affirms. One of them was the necessity of the Fall of Adam and the wisdom of Eve that men might have joy. Just interesting note.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:50:40 Yeah. Oh, beautiful.

Hank Smith:	00:50:42	This is President Oaks. Then Elder Oaks back in 1993, it was Eve who first transgressed the limits of Eden in order to initiate the conditions of mortality. Her act, whatever its nature, was formally a transgression, but eternally a glorious necessity to open the doorway toward eternal life. Adam showed his wisdom by doing the same. Some Christians condemn Eve for her act, concluding that she and her daughters are somehow flawed by it. Not the Latter-day Saints. Informed by revelation, we celebrate Eve's act and honor her wisdom and courage in the great episode called the Fall.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:51:22	Let's keep going. Adam and Eve partake the fruit. They realize that they're naked. And then in Genesis 3:7 we read, so they sowed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Now, I have never tried to make an outfit out of fig leaves, but I am guessing it is a pretty inadequate covering. The man and his wife. This is Genesis 3:8 heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid from the Lord. Now we've all been there, hide and seek. It's a fun game. We've all seen like little kids, they're hiding like this or you know, everyone knows where they are. Of course you can't hide from God. But I think it's interesting that that was their first instinct to hide. And think about how we do that today.
	00:52:07	There's so many ways that we hide. We hide often behind excuses. Instead of owning up to my mistakes, I justify them. Maybe we see something like that here. God asked Adam, have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat of? Adam said, the woman you put here with me, she gave me some of the fruit from the tree and I ate it. I mean, in one sentence, Adam's blaming God and Eve. God turns to Eve says, well, what have you done? Eve said, the serpent deceived me and I ate. So Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the serpent like poor Satan. He doesn't have anyone left to blame. Right? And I acknowledged there's different ways that you could read this passage, but I think it's interesting that one of the first effects of the Fall was a tendency to justify our wrongdoing because of the actions of another person.
	00:52:58	And I think that is one of the main ways we hide today. We justify, we rationalize, I remember as a young missionary out knocking doors one day and a 4-year-old girl opens the door and my campaign, I said, hi, we're the missionaries, you know, is your mom or dad home, the little girl leaves. And she comes back, she says, my mom told me to tell you that she's not home right now. And I was like, oh, okay. Could you go ask your mom when she'll be home? So the little girl turns around and yells

upstairs, hey mom, when will you be home? And I was like, alright, busted. This is great. I can't make fun of that girl or her mom 'cause I do the same thing. There's so many excuses that we make. I can't be polite because someone made me mad or I don't have time.

00:53:45 It's interesting, we didn't read this verse earlier, but Moses chapter four, verse three, which is part of our chapters for this week, it takes us back to the beginning in the premortal life. And the Lord says, because Satan rebelled against me and sought to destroy the agency of man I caused that he should be cast down. The war in heaven continues on earth today. And one of the ways that Satan is still trying to destroy our agency is to temp us into making excuses 'cause if I really believe I can't, I have to, she made me, I don't have time. Then it's like, oh, I guess I don't have the power to choose. For me, this principle from the Fall of hiding is so important. And it's not just excuses, right? Another is busyness. We're so busy in our lives that maybe we hide from God or we might hide from God by trying to just look good on the outside, even though we know things aren't right on the inside. I wanna keep going here, but first, any thoughts that you have on hiding from God?

John Bytheway: 00:54:47 The whole idea of hiding in one of the versions of the Creation we've been talking about. It's Satan that says, go and hide. Just the whole idea that you could hide from God is kind of funny. How do you hide from God? Yet that's the temptation.

Hank Smith: 00:55:04 Reminds me of section 121. We can have the priesthood conferred upon us, when we undertake to cover our sins.

John Bytheway: 00:55:12 Like hide them.

Hank Smith: 00:55:14 Yeah. Where it's like, oh, that's really not happening. Have you ever done that in prayer where you've knelt down to say your prayers and the Spirit has said, let's talk about this specific issue, and you think, well, let's bless President Oaks and let's talk about blessing the missionaries. How about this specific issue? I don't think I want to talk about that one right now. More important would be world peace. Let's talk about world peace where we maybe not hide from God, but we avoid God. We avoid the Spirit. We avoid spiritual things because of perhaps how we feel.

Dr. John Hilton III: 00:55:48 I love that. Earlier, John, you brought up Elder Kearon's talk God is in relentless pursuit of you, and I love that we see that here. Even though Adam and Eve are hiding, God doesn't wait for them to come out. He goes looking for them. Genesis 3:8. This is

		the first question in the Bible. Where are you? Think about that. The very first question God asked in the entire Bible is, where are you? He is looking for us. Sometimes we are hiding from God and God's first question after the Fall, where are you? He's giving us the chance to come back. I'm gonna throw this one to you John Bytheway, there's probably someone listening right now and they're hiding from God. John, what do you think is God's message to them?
John Bytheway:	00:56:35	Is He knows where you are. He knows he knows what you're up to, but he's interested in where you are. He wants to help you. He's your Father. He's not what Satan said in verse five, he's trying to hold you back. He's trying to help you get closer to him.
Hank Smith:	00:56:54	Yeah. I would add to that, John, verse 11. Who told you to hide?
John Bytheway:	00:56:58	Yeah. Who was that? It wasn't me.
Hank Smith:	00:57:01	Where did that message come from? So far when have we ever said, oh, by the way, if you do something wrong, I'm gonna be really mad, so you better run and hide.
John Bytheway:	00:57:12	I wanna come back to these fig leaves that Adam and Eve have covered themselves with. You think about it. There's a lot of problems with covering yourself with fig leaves. Recently I actually learned that fig leaves secrete a little poison actually. So you're gonna have a rash. That's a problem. Second of all, it's not a great covering. Third of all, like all these, they're gonna disintegrate and crumble. That's very uncomfortable, and every like three days, you're gonna have to make yourself a new outfit. But I wanna dig in for a moment on this idea of do we in our lives cover ourselves metaphorically speaking with fig leaves? I feel insecure about my looks, my finances, my status, my car, my kitchens, whatever it is that we feel insecure about. So we're constantly trying to just cover up. I remember as a 15-year-old, kind of in that angsty stage, feeling really insecure about myself walking down the hallway at school.
	00:58:04	My biggest fear is that I would acknowledge somebody and they would not acknowledge me back. I would just walk. I would keep my face up. I would not make eye contact, and just in my mind, I was like, just keep walking. Just keep walking. Just keep smiling. Look tough. Like it was a terrible thing. I didn't fool anybody. I didn't fool myself. But I think so often we have these kinds of ways we try to cover ourselves up with, and the tragedy is we don't need to cover ourselves with fig leaves because God has already offered the coat of skins. So in verse, chapter three,

verse 21, we read the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve his wife, and clothed them. There's a lot to unpack from that verse. You know, first is the basic idea, God covers us so much better than we could cover ourselves.

00:59:01 I can do a hundred things to try to be more healthy, be more intelligent, or whatever it is that I wanna do, be more successful. But if my hopes and dreams are bound up in success or looks or health, eventually I'm gonna be disappointed. But if I'm secure in a covering from God, that is a peace that will never leave. To me, the core principle here is you do not need fig leaves when you have a coat of skins. God has given us that through Jesus Christ. It's important to note that the coat of skins came with a cost. This is the first time that blood has been shed since the Creation. The sacrifice, of course, points to Jesus Christ who would shed his blood for us and as Latter-day Saints, I think we see a particular significance in this coat of skins pointing to the temple garment.

00:59:55 I love this article it was in the Liahona. It says, Adam and Eve entered into covenants with God and were given coats of skins made by God himself to remind them of those covenants. As we enter the temple, we are endowed with power and personally enter into covenants with God. The garment is an emblem of the protection that Adam and Eve received and that we receive and is a reminder of those sacred covenants. I don't know what you guys think, but it seems to me like in recent years I've heard more quotes either in the Liahona or in General Conference, speaking about the importance of the temple garment and its connection to Jesus Christ. Sister J. Anette Dennis, counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency said, I am so grateful for the privilege of wearing the garment of the holy priesthood to remind me that the Savior and the blessings of His infinite Atonement constantly cover me throughout my mortal journey. End quote. At a mission president seminar, it wasn't posted publicly, but it's been quoted in different BYU devotionals. President Russell M. Nelson said, the garment of the holy priesthood reminds us of the veil in the temple. That veil is symbolic of Jesus Christ. When you put on your garment, you put on a sacred symbol of Jesus Christ. End quote. When you understand what the garment represents, it totally changes how you feel about it, and we're seeing it right here in the Creation story.

Hank Smith: 01:01:38 I have a wonderful student. Her name is Hannah Olsen. She was my teaching assistant last year. She loves fashion. She would tell me that she was studying fashion. She loves clothes. We started to talk about the tendency of some young people to not wear

their garments or to adjust their garments. She said something so simple, she said, you know, I just decided that my faith was more important than my fashion. And I heard, I took on her mantra when I speak about that. It's faith or fashion, one's gonna win. She had decided that her faith was more important. Both of you said once you understand what it is and what it means, the significance of it can be ingrained on your heart. Right? Can be etched on your heart.

Dr. John Hilton III:	01:02:28	Yeah, that's beautiful.
Hank Smith:	01:02:31	Coming up in part two.
Dr. John Hilton III:	01:02:33	It's clear though that God's rejection of Cain's offering is not a rejection of Cain. In verse 23, God pleads with Cain to change. He says, if you do well, shalt thou not be accepted? In other words, it's like, Cain, you can still make this right, like be on the right path, but instead of repenting, Cain gets angry.



John Bytheway:	00:00	Welcome back to part two of Genesis three to four and Moses four to five with Dr. John Hilton iii.
Dr. John Hilton III:	00:07	I want to take a look at a couple of different perspectives on the Fall. First of all, I think it's important that we realize we are living in a fallen world and as a result, things are going to be tough. Adam and Eve are gonna have to work for their food. Things aren't just gonna be natural and beautiful. Hank, I was actually talking with a young adult the other day who had been in one of your classes and she said that you had a really powerful insight that changed her life around expectations. I'm gonna try to paraphrase it, but you correct me. It was something like along the lines of doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith, but you had another line, something about doubt your expectations or something like that.
Hank Smith:	00:48	I was using it in Luke, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. I said, analyze your expectations before you leave Jerusalem and just walk away. They had some expectations about what should happen if Jesus really was who he was, who he said he was. This such and such things should have happened, and he helped them analyze those expectations on that long walk.
Dr. John Hilton III:	01:13	That's really important, and the Fall helps us maybe set an appropriate expectation for what this life is gonna be like. Even if you're keeping the commandments, you're doing everything right, things are not gonna go perfectly for you. In fact, Moses chapter six, verse 48, this is from Enoch. He says, by the Fall came death and we are made partakers of misery and woe. I've never seen that on a cross stitch. Don't be surprised when things are hard. That's there's some natural results of the Fall, and Adam and Eve experienced that. One day they're in the Garden of Eden, they're eating organic, before organic was cool and everything's awesome, and the next day they're out in the world. That's tough. Faith is required. Let's jump over to Moses chapter five. This is the Joseph Smith Translation of Genesis chapter four. We're gonna get lots of additional insights into

Adam and Eve and their experiences after the Fall from reading the book of Moses' Joseph Smith Translation.

02:13 Moses chapter five, verse one. Adam began to till the earth and to have dominion over all the beasts of the field and to eat his bread by the sweat of his brow as I the Lord commanded him. Eve also, his wife did labor with him. Adam knew his wife and she bare unto him, sons and daughters, and they began to multiply and replenish the earth, and Adam and Eve his wife called on the name of the Lord. They heard the voice of the Lord from the way toward the Garden of Eden speaking unto them, and they saw him not for they were shut out of his presence. Together, Adam and Eve, they're working, they're raising a family, building faith in their children. That doesn't mean that everything was perfect. There were lots of hardships and challenges, but they kept moving forward even when they didn't always understand why.

03:00 That takes us to a really powerful verse, verse five. God gave unto them commandments that they should worship the Lord their God and should offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering to the Lord. Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord, and after many days, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam saying, why do you offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said, I know not save the Lord commanded me. I mean, just pause for a moment and let that sink in. We know the reason why, so for us, we can just kind of glide by it. But I mean, honestly, I wouldn't wanna kill an animal for any reason. I wonder if Adam and Eve ever felt that way. I wonder if Adam and Eve were like, well, we might need this animal for raising more flocks in the future. It's a sacrifice. Imagine if I told you burn a $20 bill every day. Just I wanna see you burn it. That's it, and you don't know why, right? You're like, what is going on? I love that Adam and Eve, and it says, for many days, obeyed even when they didn't know why. Some of the best stories are when we still don't know the reason why. We might have done something like maybe I felt impressed to move to a new house or a new apartment complex, and I still don't know why.

John Bytheway: 04:15 I just love the principle. If we want to know the reason for everything, that's kind of a slippery slope. There's so many commandments that do make sense, but when I think of this, I think of the word of wisdom coming at a time when there wasn't the science about certain things and the early Latter-day Saints, if you had asked them, why aren't you chewing tobacco? They wouldn't know the science. They would just, we have a prophet. Maybe the luxury comes. I love that Adam obeyed first

and then got the explanation. Maybe that's a sequence there that we can hope for when we're doing things that we don't fully understand perhaps.

Dr. John Hilton III: 04:59 I think we can sometimes see this in simple things too, with impressions that we get from the Spirit. I remember one time when I was living in Oregon. At that time, you weren't allowed to pump your own gas in Oregon, so a gas station attendant would pump your gas for you. So I'm at the gas station, the guy's pumping my gas, and the Spirit says to me, you should ask him if he knows anything about the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And I was like, oh, come on, Lord. Like really? Like that's kinda awkward. I said, hey, have you ever heard of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? And he's like, oh, yeah. You know, I actually just moved to this town, but in the last town I lived in, I was meeting with some missionaries and I was like, oh, well, would you like to meet with the missionaries here?

05:37 He's like, yeah. And within three weeks he, his wife and child were baptized. It was incredible. Like, okay, that's why the prompting came. But about that same time, I got a prompting one Sunday morning to go visit a person in my ward and just knock on his door and see how he was doing. So I went knocked on his door. He never answered, but that's the end of the story. And so I still don't know like, why did I feel that prompting? You know, some promptings, I think there's a real clear story. We're like, okay, that's why that prompting came. Other promptings might come and we're like, I have no idea what that was all about. And that's okay. We don't always know the reason why we had that commandment or that prompting. We just follow it. And sometimes it'll be revealed now, and maybe sometimes it'll be revealed much later.

Hank Smith: 06:22 Yeah. John, can we come back to what you said about expectations in the Fall? Some of the most difficult, heartbreaking discussions are those when someone says, I was doing my best I felt like to live the gospel, and then this thing happened. That really isn't the time as a teacher to say, you don't understand the Fall. How do we help our young people, maybe even our older people, see that difficulty and trial, this is to be expected in a fallen world. It's not fun. It's not something that I'm excited about perhaps, but when it happens, the question of, wait, I thought this wasn't supposed to happen, that expectation, that can really get us into some trouble and and I start to doubt whether God is real and if he loves me.

Dr. John Hilton III:	07:16	Take it to the scriptures. I mean, you do not have to read very far in the scriptures to see that Lehi does the right thing and his kids try to kill him. Jeremiah spends his whole life preaching to the people of Jerusalem. They reject him. Mormon works so hard to get the Nephites on course, they turn even worse and worse. I haven't done a full study on this, but my guess is we can find way more stories in the scriptures of people who chose the right, and life was hard than we can people who chose the right and everything worked out exactly the way that they would've hoped. It's just a scriptural pattern, right? Abinadi is doing exactly what God wants him to do. There's a couple times when God miraculously delivers Abinadi, but then there's also a time when Abinadi is killed.
	08:01	I'm sure that's not what he was hoping for at the end of his life, but that's part of living in a fallen world. I do think it's important for us to remember though that even though we're fallen, we are not forsaken. Jesus said, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled. There is gonna be difficulty in the world. So if I'm expecting no difficulty or 'cause I chose the right, everything's gonna work out. That's obviously a bad expectation, but even in the midst of the fallenness, we are not forsaken.
Hank Smith:	08:34	That is beautiful. Even the Lord himself, if anyone deserved to have things go well, it was him, yet he was despised, rejected, crucified.
Dr. John Hilton III:	08:47	For anyone who's suffering right now, I would say remember Jesus on the cross said, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And because Jesus was forsaken, none of us ever have to be because he said, I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.
Hank Smith:	09:02	I love our talk of expectations here. John Bytheway, do you have anything there before we move on to the
John Bytheway:	09:07	Yeah, Hank, I think that as John pointed out, one of the best talks I've ever heard about expectations was from Hank Smith. Because of that, you started on the road to Emmaus. Well, we had trusted that it was him who was gonna deliver Israel. They were disappointed, but they had the wrong expectation. And then Jesus teaches them. One of the areas too that I think is expectations is be careful how we expect each other. There may be someone who serves with you in the church or who doesn't meet your expectations. We may look at church history and well, how come they weren't perfect in this or, well, this is all God has ever had to work with as Elder Holland said, and we

famously repeat, what did you expect? Well, we should expect opposition in all things. We should expect that life is gonna be hard, but God has a long view. He's relentlessly gonna bring us back. That expectation I cling to.

Hank Smith: 10:04 Yeah, a fallen world is going to have a lot of fallen experiences. John, thank you for that.

Dr. John Hilton III: 10:10 Yeah, thank you. Let's come back to the sacrifice that Adam and Eve are offering. So for many days they don't know why, but then eventually they do learn the reason why. For some things we're not gonna know the full reason, but I do think in some cases is helpful to ask why and to see if God will reveal that to us. And in this case, the angel explained, this is verse seven, the sacrifice is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten Son. From the beginning, sacrifice points to Jesus Christ, and this is something that we can look at through the entire study of the Old Testament. Every time you see an altar, that points to Jesus Christ, that's still true today. You can think of that altar symbolism in the temple at the very front in the endowment room or at the very front of the instruction room in the temple, there's an altar symbolizing the death of Jesus Christ.

11:06 Or think about a sealing room. At the center of a sealing room is an altar, a symbol of Jesus Christ. On one occasion, Elder Bruce C. Hafen was talking about performing a sealing of a husband and wife. He said, I'm quoting him here. He said, I invited the man and the woman to come to the altar and to join hands across the altar. Whether you think about the altar or the hands that are clasped together on the altar, Christ's death is literally at the center of a sealing covenant, really deeply understanding that, seeing it, feeling it, that can change how we view a marriage. So it's important to see the reason why and the symbolism when it is there. This passage here in Moses chapter five is a really powerful illustration of that. Now, today, God is no longer asking us to lay lambs on an altar, but I love that In 3 Nephi chapter nine, we read what Jesus said, ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood. I will accept none of your sacrifices and burnt offerings. Ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. That's something that we can still sacrifice today, our pride, or maybe it's an app or a distraction, something that I let go of to focus more on Him.

John Bytheway: 12:32 All the altars you mentioned, I think too of the sacrament table, it's an altar. It's remembering Jesus's body and his blood. What do we bring to Sacrament meeting? We are the sacrifice, right? We bring our broken heart, our contrite spirit. Thank you for

		reminding us there's, the altar is in all these different things that we do to sacrifice.
Dr. John Hilton III:	12:56	That reminds me of a quote from Elder Maxwell. He said, true sacrifice was never about sacrificing an animal on the altar, but sacrificing the animal in us on the altar.
Hank Smith:	13:09	That Moses chapter five, verse six, we would be wise to stop there with our kids. Why are you doing what you're doing? You know what? I don't know, but I know God wants me to do this. That to me is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, right? The first principle of the gospel. Sometimes we're gonna know why, sometimes we're not, but I'm going to do it. I'm moving forward.
Dr. John Hilton III:	13:34	I do think it's important to distinguish between different types of why questions too. So if the question is why do you live the law of chastity? If my kid's like, I don't know, that's what my mom told me to do. I mean, that's good, but we really want to teach the why so that when the heat comes, you know, but there's gonna be other situations like, why did my brother die? Why do I have this sickness? Those kinds of why questions we can't answer. You have to distinguish which of the why questions are gonna be helpful and fruitful, and which ones do we just have to lay at the alter and trust in the Lord.
Hank Smith:	14:07	And that he'll send further light and knowledge. It will come. Eventually.
John Bytheway:	14:13	In his own time.
Dr. John Hilton III:	14:14	Let's jump over to verse 10. I love the perspective that Adam and Eve offer on the Fall. Moses chapter five, verse 10. Adam said, blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression, my eyes are opened. In this life I shall have joy and again in the flesh I shall see God. Then in the very next verse, Eve declares, were it not for our transgression, we never should have had seed and never should have known good and evil and the joy of our redemption and the eternal life which God giveth to all the obedient. For me, Eve's perspective particularly resonates. Without the Fall, there would be no us. Adam and Eve would have no children. 2 Nephi 2 says, if Adam and Eve had not transgressed, they would've had no children. Adam fell that men might be. Eve talks about the joy of redemption, and you said it earlier, John, that it's not just a fall downward, but it's a fall forward with the atonement of Jesus Christ.

	15:17	It actually can become a fall upward as well. I think sometimes we think of Christ's atonement as being a response to the Fall. So God's like uhoh, we got the Fall. Like what's our backup plan? It wasn't the backup plan. Jesus Christ was sacrificed from the beginning. Moses chapter six, verse 54 says, Jesus Christ was prepared from the foundation of the world so the Fall can turn us upward towards him. We've kind of already talked a little bit about this, but as a result of the Fall, there's a lot of unfairness that's gonna come into the world, that we live in a world that is inherently unfair.
	15:58	In fact, Elder Renlund talked about infuriating unfairness. I love what he said. This is from Elder Renlund, quote, I declare with all my aching heart that Jesus Christ both understands unfairness and has the power to provide a remedy. Nothing compares to the unfairness He endured. It was not fair that he experienced all the pains and afflictions of mankind. It was not fair that he suffered for my sins and mistakes and for yours, but He chose to do so because of His love for us and for heavenly Father. He understands perfectly what we are experiencing. And what I love about that is it's a reminder that life isn't fair and there are inherently unfair things because of the Fall, but because of the Atonement, all unfairness will be made right. Sometimes in this life, sometimes in the next, but probably my favorite passage of scriptures in Revelation chapter 21 verse four, where we read that in the millennium, there'll be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more crying. Behold, he who sits on the throne says, I am making everything new. All that unfairness all made new in Jesus Christ.
John Bytheway:	17:13	John, those lines about we should never have had seed or in 2 Nephi, they would've had no children. You can read those in less than two seconds and it goes by pretty fast. But that is huge theologically, there's a school of thought that if it weren't for Adam and Eve, we'd all be living in paradise. Today these scriptures are like, well, actually we wouldn't be here at all. They would not have had seed. And I also wanted to mention our colleague, Brad Wilcox, that said, the atonement of Christ was plan A, not plan B. It wasn't plan B to clean up the mess Adam and Eve made of the world. But it was planned from the beginning. And one of the things the Book of Mormon does so often is when it says the word the Atonement, it often adds which was prepared from the foundation of the world. This was a plan A, it was always part of the plan, not, oh no. Now what do we do? Adam and Eve fell and let's try plan B.
Dr. John Hilton III:	18:16	I do wanna acknowledge that there are certainly things that I don't understand about the Fall and that probably nobody

		understands about the Fall and its consequences, it's ramifications. But I love 2 Nephi 2:24. All things have been done in the wisdom of Him who knoweth all things. None of this surprised God. And that's for me a great comfort.
John Bytheway:	18:38	That verse has been a fallback verse for me for a long time because the questions, well, why did it have to be this way? Why did Jesus have to suffer so much? Was there another way to do this? That verse says, I know what I'm doing. All things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. That verse is my fallback sometimes when not everything makes sense.
Dr. John Hilton III:	19:04	Yeah, that's powerful. So far, we've been spending all of our time with Adam and Eve, but let's turn to the next generation. In Genesis chapter four, we are reading about Cain and Abel. So this is starting in verse two. Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time, Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord, and Abel also brought an offering. Fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering, he did not look with favor. Cain was very angry and his face was downcast. This is actually a puzzle for theologians. For centuries, people have been wondering, why is Cain's offering rejected and Abel's accepted? We have additional restoration scripture, so it might not be as much of a mystery for us, but without that it can be kind of a puzzle.
	19:56	Cause it seems like Cain is doing a good thing. Some have maybe wondered God really wanted an animal sacrifice. Cain just giving what he has. So it's sort of like give what's convenient, not what God wants you to give. What we really see in terms of solving this puzzle is what comes in Moses chapter five, again, this is the Joseph Smith Translation. So in Moses chapter five, verse 16, these are the first words we hear Cain speak. He says, who is the Lord that I should know Him. That phrase, who is the Lord? Other people who say it in scripture are the Pharaoh with Moses and King Noah. So it's not very good company we're keeping here. But in contrast, we read in verse 17, Abel hearkened unto the voice of the Lord God, there's more here than what we see in Genesis. Verse 18 really shows the problem with Cain's sacrifice.
	20:49	It says, Cain loves Satan more than God, and Satan commanded him saying, make an offering to the Lord. Cain didn't bring a sacrifice 'cause he loved God. He did it because he was listening to Satan. And I'm pretty confident that no one who's on the podcast right now is actively doing what Satan's telling them to

do. But to me, a principle that comes outta this is sort of my motive for doing it. Yes, I'm doing the right thing, but maybe I'm doing the right thing so that other people will notice me or I'm doing the right thing to feel good about myself, but I'm not doing the right thing for the right reason. And I do think it's better to do the right thing for the wrong reason than to just do the wrong thing. But there's a problem here. It's a heart problem that we're seeing with Cain.

John Bytheway: 21:35 Yeah, it's very clarifying 'cause I remember watching that epic movie, the Bible and how they handled it there that he started pouring some of the grain and then he started taking some back and that's how they handled it there to say it wasn't, his heart wasn't really in it. But here the Pearl of Great Price gives us additional wisdom about, oh, okay, thanks for that John.

Dr. John Hilton III: 21:57 It's clear though that God's rejection of Cain's offering is not a rejection of Cain. In verse 23, God pleads with Cain to change. He says, if you do well shalt thou not be accepted? In other words, it's like Cain, you can still make this right, like be on the right path, but instead of repenting, Cain gets angry. One day Satan comes to Cain and says, this is verse 29. This day I will deliver thy brother Abel into thy hands. This is the world's first secret combination. It's between Cain and Satan and it's a plan to kill Abel. I love how the Book of Mormon gives us additional insight on this. This is Helaman chapter six. Mormon talks about this exact moment and he says, Satan promised Cain that if he would murder his brother Abel, it should not be known unto the world. Now think about what a big lie that is, right? Is there any murder in the world that is better known than Cain?

22:58 It's just like what we saw in the garden, right? Satan is not interested in the truth. He's the master of spin and he's trying to spin things in a certain way. It reminds me of a quote from Elder Richard G. Scott who said, Satan strives to convince one that sins can be hidden from others, yet it is he that causes them to be revealed in the most compromising circumstances. But Cain believes the lie. He finds Abel in the field, kills him, and then ironically says, I am free. But he has never been in greater captivity. So at this moment, just like we saw in the garden, God comes calling, verse 34, where is Abel thy brother? The Lord asks, and Cain responds, I know not. Am I my brother's keeper? This is another one of the probably the most famous questions in the Bible. The way he's phrasing, it's like, well, obviously like my brother has agency, like I'm not in charge of him. And there's probably some validity to that. But I love what President Oaks said. Are we our brother's keeper? Are we responsible to look after the wellbeing of our neighbors as we seek to earn our

daily bread? The Savior's golden rule says we are. If it's okay I wanna pause for a moment and just think about that question. God asks, where is your brother? If we try to like maybe think about God asking us that question today, what thoughts, what impressions come to your mind when you hear God asking you, where's your brother?

John Bytheway: 24:40 It just makes me think of the church described as a community of saints and even outside that, everybody's my brother, everybody's my sister. And what did Jacob Marley say? Mankind was my business. Their common welfare was my business.

Hank Smith: 24:56 I would be my brother's keeper. I would learn the healer's art, right? The parable of the good Samaritan. Who is my neighbor? The expectation the Lord has that we watch out for each other.

Dr. John Hilton III: 25:10 I think it was Elder Holland who said, we might not be our brother's keeper, but we are our brother's brother. I know in my own life, sometimes I forget to call my brothers, let alone do all of the things that I should be doing. I think that's a great question for us to just marinate on in our souls and maybe in a prayer later today we think of that phrase, where's your brother? Maybe some impression will come to our hearts. So something we can do to help out a brother or a sister in our lives. Coming back to Cain's story, in response to Cain's question, am I my brother's keeper? The Lord says, what have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries unto me from the ground, even in the middle of Cain's sin, there's still a merciful covering. Just like Adam and Eve received a covering.

26:01 So does Cain 'cause after Cain confesses, he says, I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth. It shall come to pass he that findeth me will slay me because of my iniquities. And then in verse 40, we read and it came to pass the Lord said, yes, somebody probably will kill you and it serves you right. Okay, now that's actually not what verse 40 says, right? I know somebody. You're like, whoa. What translation was that? No, that's probably what I would've said. That's not what verse 40 says. Instead, verse 40 gives us something unexpected. Instead of condemning Cain to death, God gives him a covering, a mark, not of shame, but of protection. Verse 40 really says the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. This mark is meant to protect Cain. Even after all of Cain's rebellion, God still promises mercy.

26:59 Now, if you keep going in Moses chapter five, we mentioned that Satan and Cain formed the first secret combination. These secret combinations continue and we see 'em in Moses five.

That's important because at least for me growing up, when I heard the phrase secret combinations, I thought of the Gadianton Robbers in the Book of Mormon and they definitely are a secret combination. But then I noticed that in 2 Nephi, chapter nine, Jacob warns against secret combinations. And then a few verses later, Nephi also warns about secret combinations. And in my mind as a kid, I was like, wait, how did Jacob and Nephi know about secret combinations? Because that hasn't even happened yet until the Book of Helaman. But on the brass plates, they had something like Moses five that's warning them. It's really interesting in Genesis, you don't see Satan directly involved in the Fall or in the flood.

27:53 You don't see him in the Tower of Babel. But restoration scripture makes it clear that Satan is actively involved in all of these events. And he is the author of secret combinations. A few generations after Cain, he has a descendant named Lamech. There's a verse here that's so scary. I had to actually read it a couple of times to be like, is this, is this like a true verse? It's Moses 5:49. It says, Lamech entered into a covenant with Satan. I mean that is frightening. It's the secret combination to support power and violence. And when a member of the secret combination started divulging the secrets to others, Lamech kills him. Cain killed for gain. Lamech kills just for the sake of the oath. In Moses 5:54, we read, Lamech was despised and cast out and came not among the sons of men, lest he should die. Thus, the works of darkness began to prevail among all the sons of men. And God cursed the earth with the sore curse and was angry with the wicked and with all the sons of men whom he had made for they would not hearken unto his voice nor believe on His Only Begotten Son. And this kind of seems like a very depressing way to end chapter five. And there were lots of secret combinations, lots of darkness. And alright, what a great scripture study kids, let's have family prayer.

Hank Smith: 29:19 A message from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dr. John Hilton III: 29:22 But the chapter isn't actually over. There's still a ray of hope. I love verse 58. Thus, the gospel began to be preached from the beginning being declared by holy angels sent forth from the presence of God by his own voice and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. Even in the darkest of times, the gospel is still preached. It could be easy today in the world we live in to get bogged down with secret combinations and wondering like, okay, what secret combinations are happening in the world today? I love how the Lamanites in the Book of Mormon, when they realized that secret combinations were among them, what did they do? This is Helaman chapter six, verse 37, the Lamanites did hunt

		the band of robbers of Gadianton. And they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from the Lamanites.
	30:18	I think it's the same for us today. We can combat secret combinations by obviously working to promote just laws. We can also get the gospel deep in our hearts and share it with others. That's the whole good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Where Lamech said he wanted to get 70 and sevenfold vengeance, Jesus offers 70 times seven forgiveness. Lamech killed to protect his power. Jesus died to give us power. Lamech boasted of his own strength. Jesus always did the will of his Father. Jesus is always pointing us to the greater way and giving us the greater strength to do the things that are right even when we live in difficult times. Now, before we conclude that, there's one final passage that I wanna share. I want to go back to a moment in the garden, but anything else that you guys wanna talk about before we wrap things up?
Hank Smith:	31:13	I remember four years ago we had Shon Hopkin here, man, back to back Shon Hopkin and John Hilton. This is an amazing companionship. He said, notice that when Adam and Eve leave the garden it's, you are going to work, you're gonna provide, you're going to sweat. Notice that the adversary, one of his first temptations to Cain is take what you want. Your brother has it. Go take it. Take it violently. That stayed with me because I frequently look for shortcuts. I know I'm not looking to hurt anyone. I frequently look to avoid work. And that seems to be part of the secret combinations is we're gonna avoid, we're gonna avoid the work that comes with the Fall. We don't have to work. I've tried to develop a character of work is going to bring me joy, right? It's an important part of, it's an important part of life. And John Hilton, I know you as a dad, you enjoy allowing or giving your children the opportunity to work and let them feel the joy of that.
Dr. John Hilton III:	32:21	Yeah, I love that. That's a great perspective. Thanks Shon. I hear the echo of your voice here.
John Bytheway:	32:27	Yeah, absolutely. After Lehi dies and Nephi has to leave, 2 Nephi five, I had to teach my people to be industrious and to labor with their hands. It wasn't, now we're away from those guys. We can finally relax.
Hank Smith:	32:42	They lived after the manner of happiness.
John Bytheway:	32:44	Yeah, right there in same chapter.

Hank Smith:	32:46	John Hilton, I like what you did here. We could really get discouraged and it could get really dark speaking of these secret combinations. We'll have to bring you back in the Book of Mormon year and say, okay, keep walking us through this. You're gonna be our master of secret combinations.
Dr. John Hilton III:	33:03	I dunno if I wanna be the master of secret combinations.
Hank Smith:	33:05	I like how you flipped it though, and you said, look how opposite it is of the Savior. And look what He offers us. He offers us community as well. Covenants as well. Light, truth. John, I think as a seminary teacher or a parent this week, I don't have to just say, okay, let's talk about secret combinations. I can say, let's flip it around and look at what the Savior offers.
Dr. John Hilton III:	33:30	Yeah. And I think that's so important. We can do that with whatever block of scripture we're in. There's a talk, and maybe we can link to it in the show notes by Chad Webb where he emphasizes the importance of bringing whatever it is, we're talking about Christ at the center. You know, for example, soon we'll be talking about the Tower of Babel and the people say, we want to make a name for ourselves. And like what a great principle that we can apply into our lives. So whatever it is that we're talking about, Brother Webb says, we need to point people to Jesus Christ. Sometimes we're gonna see like a heroic person in scripture and we can see how Jesus Christ is the greater version of that person. Sometimes we see a negative person like Lamech and we see how Jesus Christ is the complete opposite of the person. And I think just maybe pausing at the end of a chapter or say, where are we seeing Jesus Christ in here is a really powerful way to center ourselves on the Savior.
Hank Smith:	34:27	And that's a maybe a constant check on my lessons this year throughout seminary with my students, with my children. Make sure that that question's being answered. Whatever we're talking about today, how can it take them towards Christ? How can we see Christ here? And that's part of the series you're doing, right?
Dr. John Hilton III:	34:44	Yeah. I mean, Jesus Christ really is on every page and we can see whether we're talking about Noah and the Ark or the Tower of Babel or Jonah and the great fish, he's a part of every story. Sometimes it's obvious and sometimes we won't have to like puzzle it out and think about it. Probably most of us weren't thinking this morning about how Lamech and his secret combination is the anti type of Christ. I love what you said. For every secret combination, there's a sacred covenant. For every work in darkness, there's a Savior who invites us to come into

		the light. So these oppositions and parallels, they're all throughout the scriptures and finding them is really fun and really centering on what matters most.
John Bytheway:	35:25	We talked about hiding. Well, what's a secret? It's something we're trying to hide. And I'm looking at John 18:20, when Jesus is in front of Caiaphas, Jesus answered Him, I speak openly to the world. I ever taught in the synagogue and in the temple whither the Jews always resort, and in secret have I said nothing. I just think it's interesting how open that is in contrast to these secret combinations we've been talking about.
Hank Smith:	35:53	Yeah. John, you made me think of an Elder Holland moment, April, 2010. He's speaking about the enemy of our soul, the adversary that we've been discussing. He says, true love we are absolutely giddy about, as I am about Sister Holland. We shout it from the house tops. Lust is characterized by shame and stealth and is almost pathologically clandestine. The later and the darker the hour, the better with a double bolted door just in case. Love makes us instinctively reach out to God and other people. Lust is anything but godly, celebrates self-indulgence. Love comes with open hands and an open heart. Lust comes only with an open appetite. Almost that same contrast that John has been taking us through today.
Dr. John Hilton III:	36:44	That's a powerful quote.
John Bytheway:	36:45	Insightful.
Dr. John Hilton III:	36:47	Well, as we conclude today, maybe we can end with one example of what we're talking about, finding Jesus Christ in the center of a story. I wanna go back to what God said to Satan in the garden. He said, I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel. So the offspring of the woman here is a clear reference to Jesus Christ. Now, think about that phrase, you will strike his heel. Often when we think of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, if you imagine it, you see nails going through the tops of his feet. But actually according to archeological evidence, people were crucified with nails going through the sides of their feet right next to the heel. So in a sense, you can literally see Satan striking Christ's heel on the cross but Jesus crushing his head.
	37:47	In Hebrews chapter two, it says, Jesus through death destroyed the one who has the power of death. That is the devil. And it brings us to an interesting detail 'cause you remember that Jesus is crucified in the middle of two thieves and there's a

		detail about the Tree of Life. Do you remember back in Genesis 2:9, the Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden. Jesus Christ got up on a tree, on the middle tree because he is the Tree of Life and because of his sacrifice, we can have ultimate peace through him. To me, that's a reminder that God is still calling us and he's still covering us. Because of that, we can deeply rest from our worries because Jesus is the Tree of Life because he got up on that middle tree.
Hank Smith:	38:44	I remember learning that about crucifixion in this book I read called Considering the Cross, How Calvary Connects Us with Christ by John Hilton III.
Dr. John Hilton III:	38:54	Sounds like a great one.
Hank Smith:	38:56	It was a great book. It was a great book. John, I can't tell you how much I appreciate all that we've talked about today. One, I'm gonna order maybe an easier edition of the Bible for me and my children, especially my younger boys, to read something at a simpler grade level. And then when difficult, hard things happen, at least I can take a breath and say, okay, this was part of the program. I live in a fallen world. Just the other day I stepped outta my garage going down to my truck and I rolled my ankle like you wouldn't believe. I hit my head on my son's scooter and I'm thinking, I'm trying to do good things here. Right? Like I think I was heading out to speak at a morningside for a seminary, and I, as I'm there biting my fist going, ah, we live in a fallen world where we literally fall, right? and metaphorically where we fall, and then focusing on Christ each week here in the Old Testament. These are three major takeaways for me.
John Bytheway:	40:05	Oh, I absolutely, I just learned so much today, John, thank you for this. For me, one of the things I just love is that God covered them, made coats of skins and clothed them, that we are still impacted by that same thing. The fact that we are still blessed by that idea and in a literal way today is so wonderful to me that that story is still going on and we're blessed by that. And I have a way to remember every single morning that I'm covered by Christ is really beautiful.
Hank Smith:	40:40	Beautiful. John, give us your last thoughts before we let you go. It's been so fun having you here.
Dr. John Hilton III:	40:47	Oh, thank you. For me, as I think of these chapters wholistically, one image that just keeps coming to my mind is that importance of you don't need the fig leaves when you have a coat of skins. I think there are so many ways in our lives, and

this is a pattern. When we get to the Tower of Babel, it says the people were trying to make a name for themselves. It's just another way of covering ourselves with fig leaves. Look for that as you read through the Old Testament. I see in my life so often trying to cover myself with fig leaves when I already have the coat of skins. Jesus Christ is the answer. For me stepping back, in some ways, I see in Genesis chapter three and four, a lot of hiding from God. To me, the overarching message is you are not too lost to be found. Your loved ones are not too lost to be found. God the creator of the world, he is relentlessly pursuing us. He says, where are you? And so for me, this is such a hopeful message. No matter where you are, no matter where your loved ones are, you are not too lost to be found.

Hank Smith:	41:55	Thank you. We're glad that Lani took a chance on you. Please tell her thank you for us.
Dr. John Hilton III:	42:03	It was a big risk.
Hank Smith:	42:04	You were able to create the person you did some creating and you became the man she needed you to be. Lani, if you're listening, we love you too. With that, we want to thank Dr. John Hilton III for being with us today. We wanna thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We're talking more of the book of Genesis on followHIM. Thank you for joining us on today's episode. Do you or someone you know speak Spanish, Portuguese, or French? You can now watch and listen to our podcast in those languages. Links are in the description below. Today's show notes and transcript are on our website. Follow him.co. That's follow him.co. 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:	00:03	Hey, welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I share a single story to go with each week's Come, Follow Me lesson. John, we are in Genesis chapter three and four and Moses four and five this week. It's the fall of Adam and Eve. I have a story that I think you will like. I'm gonna tell you this story and I want you to compare it to ... John, you would say, listen with your spiritual ears. I want you to compare it to the Fall. The fall of Adam and Eve, the fall of man. John, it was October 14th, 1987. An 18-month-old girl, Jessica McClure fell into a well in her aunt's backyard. John, this little girl is 18 months old. You have grandchildren who are about this stage. She falls into a well that is only eight inches big. Eight inches, John. That pipe. She falls down and the pipe actually opens up. So the eight inch wide pipe opens up to a 14 inch wide pipe. She actually falls John 22 feet.
	01:13	22 feet into a well that is eight inches big down to 14 inches. Now, John, you might even remember this story, but how is she going to get out of there? She cannot get out of there on her own. In fact, not only does she not have the capability, she doesn't even comprehend what's happened. John, one of the ways they knew she was alive is they could hear her singing Winnie the Pooh. She's 22 feet down in a 14 inch pipe. How are you gonna get her out? You can't go down from on top. You can't start digging on top. It'll just all cave in. So engineers and you've gotta work fast here, have got to find a way to dig alongside her down and over and to come up underneath her. Does that make sense? Like they've got to go below her and come up from below, grab her, and then take her out this way. It took rescue workers 56 hours. 56 hours. But she came out alive.
John Bytheway:	02:33	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	02:34	But only with a broken arm. Now, think about the person who decides that they're going to go down into that freshly dug hole, 20 feet down. I don't know if we can comprehend how dangerous that is. You don't have time to reinforce this. You've

got to go down. Then not only that, you've got to go under. You've got to go over and under her. This could collapse at any moment on you. You've got to go under, grab her, bring her back out. Think about that story, John, with the fall of Adam and Eve and our own fall. We come to this earth where we're gonna learn these incredible lessons, but we can't get ourselves out. Not only can we not get ourselves out, we don't even really, I don't think we really comprehend where we are and what position we're in. There is one who will descend below all things to come here and get us out. And they do, John. They get baby Jessica out. Do you remember this?

John Bytheway: 03:36 I do. I was, I guess, a teenager. I mean, it was on the news all the time. I loved the effort it took for one toddler little girl. I love that they went to those lengths. The whole world was praying. Oh, yeah. It was on the news twenty four seven. The lengths the Savior would go to come and get us and get us out of a situation we could not get ourselves out of. It's a good comparison.

Hank Smith: 04:05 Such a happy ending. John, listen to this from Elder Jeffrey R. Holland. What a plight. The entire human race in free fall. Every man, woman, and child in it physically tumbling toward permanent death, spiritually plunging toward eternal anguish. Is that what life was meant to be? Is this the grand finale of the human experience? The answer to those questions is an unequivocal and eternal no. With prophets, ancient and modern, I testify that all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. The atonement would achieve complete victory over physical death, unconditionally granting resurrection to every person who's ever been born or will be born into this world. Mercifully, it would also provide forgiveness for the personal sins of all conditioned upon repentance and obedience to divine commandments. Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, suffered, died, and rose from death in order that he could, like lightning in a summer storm, grasp us as we fall, hold us with his might, and through our obedience to his commandments, lift us to eternal life.

John Bytheway: 05:19 Thank you for reminding me of that. I just loved how the whole world stood still. Watching as they were trying to save Jessica McClure. Yeah, I remember.

Hank Smith: 05:29 I think it's a little bit of a type and shadow of our fall and the Lord coming to get us. Hey, we hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcasts. We're with Dr. John Hilton III this week. He's so great they made three of him. He is going to cover these

chapters. He's an expert in every way. We think you'll love him, and then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorite.