

# Degrees of the Celestial Kingdom

Roald Peterson – 6 Dec 2015

A friend of mine reasoned that if temple marriage is required for exaltation in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom (DC 132), and if baptism is required for entrance into the first level of that kingdom, that the endowment might be required for the second level. He asked me what I thought about it, and my initial response was that it made sense, but I didn't know for sure. After some research I didn't find any scriptures that confirmed the idea, but I was able to find a couple of quotes from general authorities of the church speaking about the necessity of the endowment to attain the second level. Those two quotes are shown below. I later had an experience of the Temple that confirmed to me the purpose and place of the endowment in our journey to exaltation.

As long as I was researching the subject I decided to gather and organize information on qualifying for the three degrees of the celestial kingdom. An essential point to remember is that there is more to progress than simply receiving ordinances. To become the kind of person that can live in the celestial kingdom we must fulfill the covenants we make while performing ordinances and learn to live the laws of the kingdom. The chart below is the result of my study. It identifies the inhabitants of the three degrees, gives a one word description of their state, identifies the ordinances required and how the ordinances are fulfilled, identifies the major laws or covenants associated with the level and the process used to fulfill or obey those laws, and finally, some significant examples from the scriptures of people who achieved that level in their progress. It condenses a lot of information. Consider it prayerfully and thoughtfully.

I wanted to write a longer paper discussing each entry in the table but I thought it more important to make the information in the table available as soon as possible. Perhaps I'll find time in the future to write an expanded version.

Degree	Inhabitants	State	Ordinance	Fulfillment of Ordinance	Laws	Process to Attain	Examples
3	Gods (Exalted)	Perfect	Celestial Marriage	Sealed up to Exaltation (2nd Anointing)	Perfect Obedience to Laws of God	Learn Perfect Obedience (DC 132:37)	Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (DC 131, 132)
2	Ministering Angels	Holy	Endowment	Receive 2nd Comforter	Consecration Chastity (To Bridegroom)	Sanctification by Holy Ghost	Brother of Jared (Ether 3, Alma 13, DC 84: 19-24)
1	The Just	Innocent	Complete Baptism	Full Remission of sins, Bap of fire & HG, Mighty change of heart	Gospel, Sacrifice, Obedience,	Justification through faith in Christ (Remission of Sins)	Enos, King Benjamin's People, Alma (Enos 1:5-8, etc.)

## Statement 1 Regarding the Endowment and Celestial Kingdom Level 2

**"Endowments and sealings pertain to exaltation. Baptism is the door into the celestial kingdom.** All the ordinances of the gospel pertain to the celestial kingdom, and any person who

is faithful to the covenant of baptism will be entitled to enter there, but no person can receive an exaltation in the celestial kingdom without the ordinances of the temple. **The endowments are for advancement in that kingdom**, and the sealings for our perfection, provided we keep our covenants and obligations.

"People baptized, and who are not endowed in the temple of the Lord, may enter the celestial kingdom. But that does not mean that a baptized person is going to get the exaltation in that kingdom. He is not going to pass on to the fulness just by being baptized. He will not pass on to the fulness even after he has been baptized and received an endowment in the temple. He has also to receive the **other ordinances** so that he can become through his faithfulness and obedience a son of God...." (**Joseph Fielding Smith**, *DS*, 2:45)

### **Statement 2 Regarding the Endowment and Celestial Kingdom Level 2**

"Since the celestial kingdom will have three heavens or degrees, no doubt all who will inherit the second degree, in addition to possessing all of the qualities of those who will possess the first, or lowest degree, **will receive an endowment in the temples of God for this purpose**, and will have "overcome by faith," and be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true. They attained this by obedience to the sacred obligations of the endowment which they received by covenant.

As to exaltation, or the inheritance of the third heaven or degree in the celestial kingdom, we have the following revelation which gives the dominions and powers of the spiritual bodies, who, in addition to possessing all the qualities of those who possess the first and second degrees of this kingdom, will also be: [see D&C 131:1-4]." (**Alvin R. Dyer**, *Who Am I?*, pg. 547-548)

