

Spiritual Preparation in the Last Days - (Roald Peterson – Aug 2015)

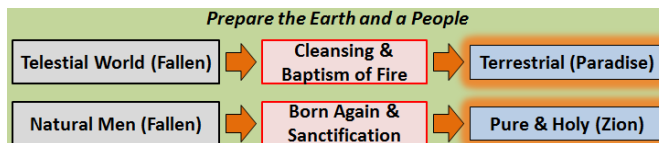
Introduction

“We need to make both temporal and spiritual preparation for the events prophesied at the time of the Second Coming. And the preparation most likely to be neglected is the one less visible and more difficult—the spiritual. A 72-hour kit of temporal supplies may prove valuable for earthly challenges, but, as the foolish virgins learned to their sorrow, a 24-hour kit of spiritual preparation is of greater and more enduring value.” (Elder Dallin Oaks - LDS General Conf, April 2004)

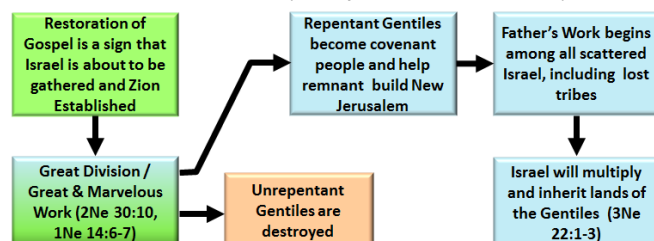
- Temporal preparation includes many different subjects, Spiritual preparation is the same. This will only be an introduction. You will need to pursue these things on your own, with spouse & friends.
- Spiritual preparation is a personal journey back to God. Everyone in a group may make the same physical journey but make a different spiritual journey. In days ahead some will draw closer to God, others degenerate.
- We are all journeying through the end times and experiencing events of the last days. Events are designed to prove us and teach us. They will show us what we are. They will make us what we are to become.
- Those who survive will need to become Zion. The rest will be swept off the land. Temporal preparation will not save you without spiritual preparation

Last Days Background

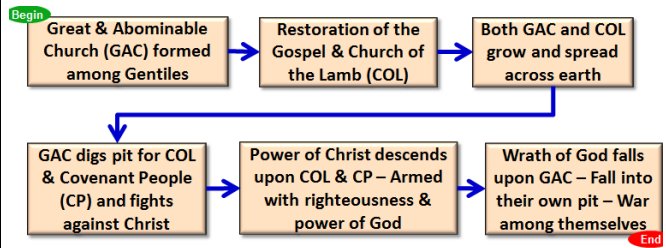
- **God versus Satan** - Both God and Satan are working to establish their kingdoms on the earth. Satan usurps governments, then uses the power of government to establish and enforce his religion among people. Satan prevails until Adam Ondi Ahman (*Dan 7:21-22*)
- God establishes his gospel among the people, out of which will grow the political kingdom or government of God. After being set up, Kingdom of God will never be destroyed and consumes all other kingdoms (*Dan 2:44*)
- God Has a Purpose and a Plan - Last days events are not random happenings. Each is part of a plan to accomplish God's purpose (*Rev 5:1-7; D&C 77:6-7*). Purpose is to help his children become like him (*Romans 8:17, Moses 1:39*) Part of his plan is to prepare the Earth for the coming of Christ (most people focus on this part). Other part of God's plan is to prepare a people → Zion.



- **Timeline for America** (3 Nephi 21 and Micah 5)



- **Partial Timeline of World** (1 Nephi 13, 14, & 22)



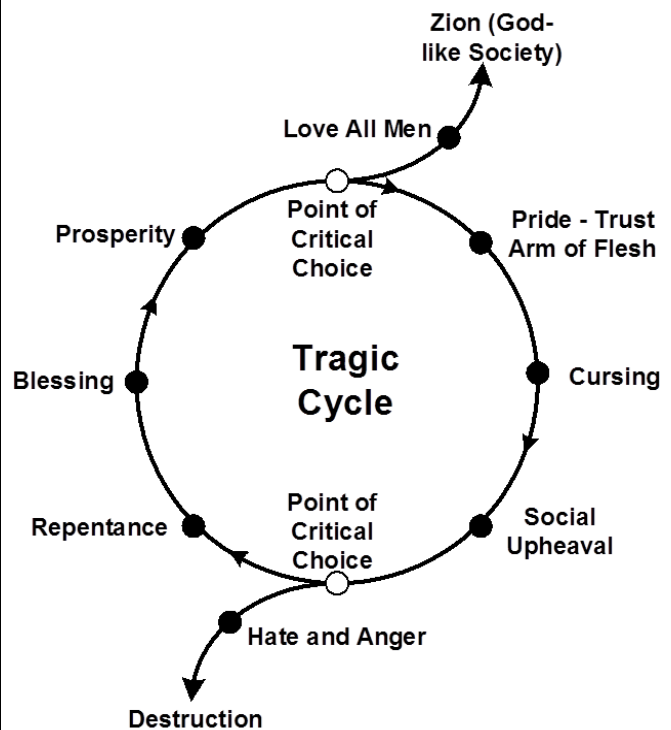
Pit False doctrines (religious, scientific, economic, governmental, etc.)

GAC All people and organizations who teach or follow false doctrines and principles

COL Saints of God (People who are sanctified or becoming so)

CP People under covenant with God (Church and House of Israel who do not fight against Christ or belong to Babylon)

- **Tragic Cycle** - From: “Choosing the Fulness: Wickedness or Righteousness,” S. Michael Wilcox, Bookcraft, 1988.



- **Signs of Fullness of Iniquity** - Violence (*Gen 6:11-13*), vengeance, secret combinations (*Ether 8*), without civilization (*Moroni 9*), perversion of procreative gift (*Jude 1:7*), fascination with evil (*Lev 18:24-25*), arm of flesh (materialism & military might), oppression of poor, refusal to repent, criticism of spiritual leaders (*Alma 30*), all things relative (*Alma 30*), false indignation (*Alma 10:24*), sin against knowledge (*2 Ne 1:10, Alma 9:20-22*), entertained by iniquity, cast out righteous (*Hel 13:14*) - Sign of Ripe for Destruction.

...when ye shall cast out the righteous from among you, then shall ye be ripe for destruction; (*Helaman 13:12-14*)

- **Characteristics of Zion Societies** - Continue in God, grow in light, Beatitudes (*Matt 5*), born again, mighty change of heart (*Mosiah 5:2*), receive fulness of the gospel, make & keep covenants (righteousness), full of grace and truth, Sanctified (pure & holy), all things

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common, law of consecration (stewardship, and private property, not communism or socialism), beauty, holiness, cleanliness, peace, happiness, joy, every man seeks interest of his neighbor, all things done for glory of God (DC 82:19), Have Christ among them.

- We are experiencing a **Great Division** among the people. Both critical choice points will be reached. Some people will **establish Zion**. Most people will go down to **destruction** (3 Nephi 21).

Daniel: Israel in Exile in Babylon

- **Significance of Daniel** - contains experiences and revelations of Israelites living in exile in Babylon. We are Israelites living in exile in Babylon. Our real homeland is Celestial Kingdom. Our Babylon is Telesial world and the Great and Abominable Church. Remembering heritage is not for everybody. After 70 years of exile most never returned – they stayed in Babylon and Persia – They had made it their home – Most who come to mortality do the same
- Daniel teaches key principles for living in Babylon and surviving its downfall – Literal & Symbolic
- **Remember Whose Name We Bear** – We are God's children (Romans 8:16-17) and once bore his name & names he gave us. We received new names in this fallen world, but we can take upon us the name of Christ, and receive new names for our spiritual rebirth. Remember who we are – our purpose, our missions.
- **7 Attributes of the Faithful** (Daniel 1:4) - No Blemish (Spotless and clean), Well favored (of the Lord and Others), Skillful in all Wisdom (D&C 6:7, Jacob 4:10), Cunning in Knowledge (D&C 88:118), Understanding Science (Truths in the World), Ability to Stand in King's Palace (Temple), Teachable (Humble, D&C 97:1)
- **Dietary Laws** – (Daniel 1:11-20) Daniel ate proper food and not eat Kings food. 10 times better than all wise men. Lord's people always get dietary laws. Provide better health, longer life, greater knowledge, wisdom, understanding. Free us from addictions & plans of evil people. Teach us about spiritual dietary laws - Touch not the unclean gift (Moroni 10:30)
- If we take good things into our bodies, minds, spirits, we move towards life and eternal life. If we take bad things into our bodies, minds, spirits, we moved closer to physical and spiritual death
- Modern dietary law (Word of Wisdom D&C 89) - Rarely obeyed in its fullness. Real obedience would eliminate many health problems. We would live longer with fewer disabilities. Would prepare us with greater health, knowledge, wisdom, revelation, and protection.
- **Golden Idols & Fiery Furnaces** – 3 Israelites refused to bow to golden image when music played. Cast into fiery furnace and walked with Savior unhurt. Those who cast them in were killed by fire
- Lesson: if we would survive the fiery cataclysms that will consume Babylon in the last days – and walk with Christ, we must not worship gold (money) or any of the things it can buy – we must only worship God
- Lehi's Choices – Left behind: house, land of his inheritance, gold, silver, precious things. He took with him: family, provisions, tents, scriptures, another family (posterity). He survived destruction of Jerusalem.

- **Surviving The Lions' Den** - Darius, King of the Medes, decreed that no one should petition any God or person other than the king for 30 days – on pain of death. Daniel was accused of praying and sentenced to be cast into the lions' den. God preserved Daniel, and his accusers and their families, were cast into lions' den.
- Lessons from the Lions' Den - Wicked people make laws to trap the righteous. Satan tries to get people to worship government & look to government in all things. People who rely upon their God or other non-governmental sources may be condemned, but God will preserve the righteous, and wicked will be cast into the pit they dug for the righteous (Same with Satan after judgement) - Rely upon God and his counsels rather than government or others.

Parable of the 10 Virgins: How to be a Wise Virgin

- Parable of Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13) - Clearly a parable of the last days (verse 13). All virgins are members of Lord's kingdom or church (10 = Lord's portion). 5 is the number of choice - they were wise or foolish because of their choices. All were same in every way mentioned except foolish virgins had no extra oil. The extra oil allowed the wise virgins to enter the marriage (they had prepared). When the foolish virgins obtained more oil, it was too late (today is the time to prepare to meet God, not tonight or tomorrow)
- Key to this parable given in D&C 45:56-57:
 - 56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.
 - 57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.
- **Receiving the Truth** - Truth is knowledge of things as they are, were, and are to come. Need to study, know scriptures, and receive revelation (D&C 93:24)
- Christ is the way, the truth, and life (John 14:6). To receive truth is to receive Christ – different levels.
- There is a lesser gospel (preparatory), and a greater gospel (fullness) that allows men and women to be in the presence of God (D&C 84:19-27). Only a few will seek the fullness (Matt 7:14; D&C 132:22; 2Nephi 32:7)
- Must keep commandments of God to receive fullness of truth (D&C 93:24-28)
- Rejecting fullness and sinning against lesser brings end of Times of Gentiles (3 Nephi 16:10-11)
- Triad of Truth - Sources of revelation - holy scripture, apostles and prophets, personal revelation. All come through Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21)
- **Taking Holy Spirit As Your Guide** - Holy Ghost is a comforter, guide, teacher, validator of truth, revealer of hidden things, key to conversion, agent of transfiguration and sanctification. HG is guide to all truth (Christ) (John 16:13, Moroni 10:5)
- We need to become prophets – (Numbers 11:26-29). Learn to Recognize the word of God. Scriptures and prophets help, but Holy Spirit is your personal counselor and guide to Christ & safety

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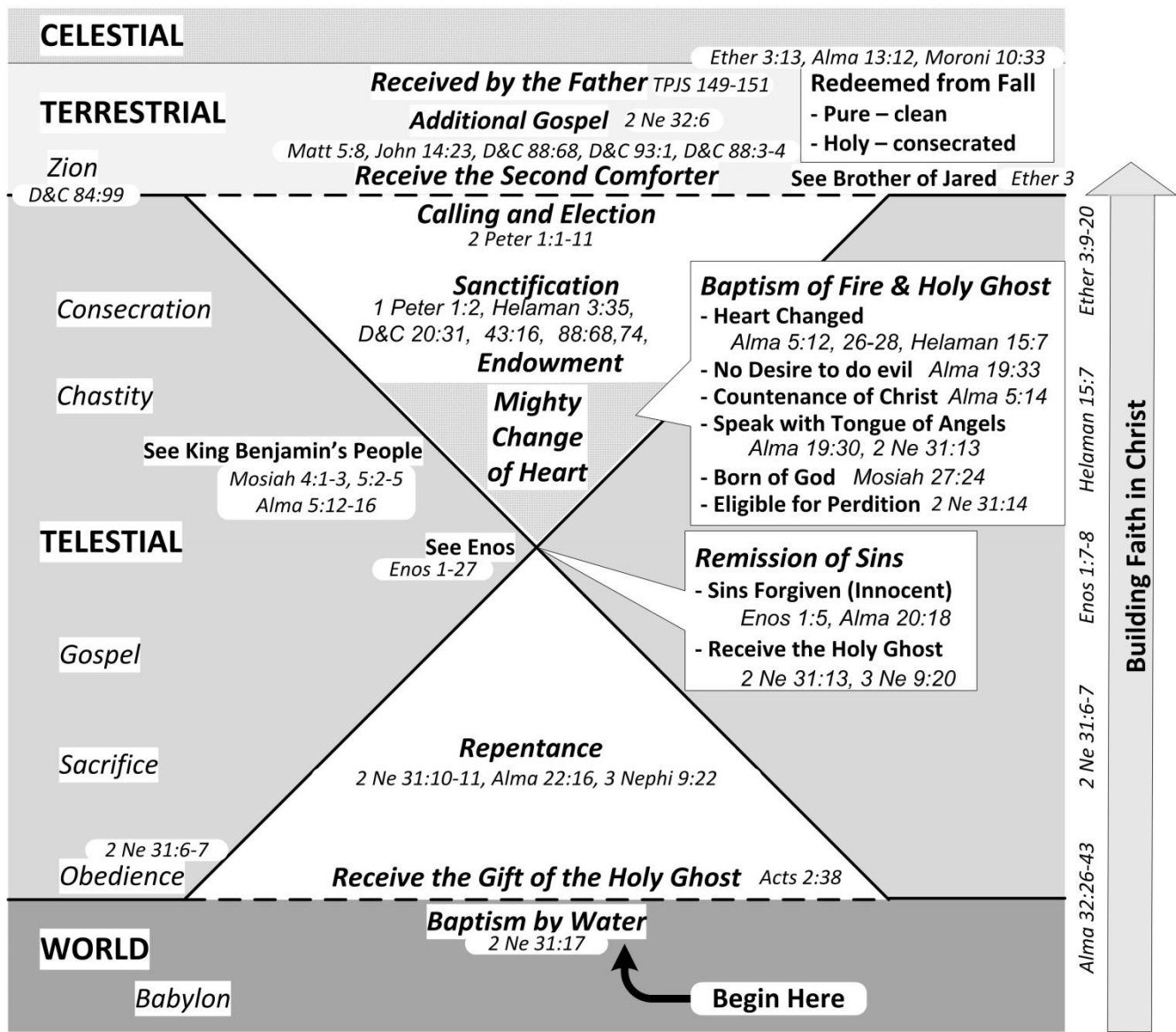
- Symbolism of the Liahona (1Nephi 16; Alma 37)
- **Avoid Being Deceived** - Lehi's dream: only following the iron rod (word of God) would lead to tree of life (Christ). Can get lost in the mists of darkness (false teachings and worship) on one side of path (1 Nephi 12:17) or the river of filthy water (sin and wickedness) on the other (1 Nephi 12:16)
- Many pursue Babylon: "Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen? Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men..." (D&C 121:34–35)
- Many believe "All is well in Zion." (2 Nephi 28:21). Even

- the elect are in danger of deception (Matt 27:7)
- How to avoid being deceived? - Holy Ghost is key. Hold fast to the triad of truth (word of God = prophets, scriptures, personal revelation). "whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived (PofGP, Joseph Smith-Matthew 1:37).
- Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you (D&C 19:38)
- ... that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts [from God]... (D&C 46:8)

Fullness of the Gospel - Plan of Exaltation

Plan of Exaltation

Matt 7:14



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- **Warnings** - Persecution (especially within church). Most people not ready for it. Most people not willing to receive. Learn to be quiet (Pearls). Learn about loneliness. Find how evenly yoked you and spouse are. Satan will try to discourage you and deceive you. Will have spiritual experiences you never thought possible. You will have to seek and follow path yourself.
- **Gospel for Most LDS People** – Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Gift of Holy Ghost, Priesthood Ordinations, Temple Ordinances, Temple Marriage, Church Assignments, Family Activities, Becoming a Better Person, Enduring to the End (Death) in the church.
- **The Fullness of the Gospel** – Justification, Being Born Again, Sanctification, Calling & Election made Sure, Fullness of Priesthood, The rest of the Lord, Miracles, Prophecy, Gifts of the Spirit, Countenance of Christ, Holy Order of God, Angelic Visitations, 2nd Comforter, Establishing Zion, Church of the Firstborn, Being Translated, Mysteries of Godliness, Enduring to the end of the path.
- Rejecting the Fullness - 3 Nephi 16:10
- **Attributes of Exalted People** - Innocent (Without Sin), Honest (cannot lie), Pure (Clean, without blemish) Holy (Consecrated to godly purposes), Husband or Wife, Mother or Father, Purpose is to raise children & exalt them, Filled with Charity (Love), Perfect Faith, Patient & Long Suffering, Just & Merciful, Obedient.
- **Strait and Narrow Path** - Strait = Without bend, angle, or curve; direct; honest, honorable, or upright. Strait = Narrow passage, situation of trouble or difficulty, Close, strict, or rigorous, Example: Straitjacket.
- **Lower Triangle** – Grace of Christ allows us to enter. Deals with sins of commission. Becomes constrictive as we progress. Learn obedience to lesser laws of God. Sacrifice what you cannot take with you. Learn to share the Gospel. Leads to a remission of sins
- **Second Half of Journey to Christ** - Received the Holy Ghost. Constant guidance, not occasional. Become a prophet or prophetess. Requires Melchizedek Priesthood (ordination or ordinances of temple). Path becomes less constrictive - more opportunities to grow and serve. More opportunity to propose our own spiritual activities. Learn to work with God, not just for him. More knowledge and spiritual gifts are given
- **Upper Triangle** - Sins of omission. Sin becomes abhorrent. Prepare to receive the Second Comforter
- Sanctification - Process of becoming pure and holy. Holy Ghost is Sanctifier. Pure = Clean, without spot. Holy = Changed purpose. Intelligences in spirit & body changed to higher glory. Makes us Terrestrial beings
- Entering Into Lord's Rest – DC 88:19-27. Many entered into Lord's Rest in this life: Alma 13:10-13.
- Law of Chastity - Literal – No relations outside marriage. Figurative – No relations with other gods – Be true to the Bridegroom (Christ)
- Law of Consecration - God's purpose becomes your purpose. Everything belongs to God, you are a steward. Use resources (time, talent, possessions) for God.
- **Calling and Election** - When faith is sufficient, when fully sanctified, when you have proven your loyalty to God and his work, Holy Spirit of Promise (Holy Ghost)

seals salvation upon you (2 Peter 1:10). Eligible to receive Second Comforter (Jesus Christ).

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

- **Second Comforter** – Jesus will become your teacher.

“When any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him” (D&C 88:3-4; 130:3; HC 3:381). *Source: LDS Bible Dictionary (see Comforter)*
- **Pattern of Exaltation Taught Everywhere** – Layout of Temple, Endowment, Lehi's journey to promise land, Jaredite's journey to promise land, Israelites journey to promise land, Latter-day Saints journey to New Jerusalem, Wise men's journey to Jesus, Entire Book of Mormon structure. Throughout Scriptures, Look for it.

... the scriptures shall be given, even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect;
For they will hear my voice, and shall see me, and shall not be asleep, and shall abide the day of my coming; for they shall be purified, even as I am pure. (D&C 35:20-21)

Solomon's Temple

- Temple layout teaches path to Christ. See Drawing.
- Endowment also teaches path to Christ.
- **Stand in Holy Places** - In his last talk on preparation (Oct. 2005) Gordon Hinckley quoted the following from the “prophecy on war:”

Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen. (D&C 87:8)
- What is required to stand in the Holy Place? Just what we've been talking about.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalms 24:3-5)
- Jesus said:

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) (Matthew 24:15)
- Standing in the Holy Place is being in the upper triangle: Remission of Sins, Received Holy Ghost, Mighty Change of Heart, Becoming Sanctified.
- Allows God to give us more than others: Greater protection, Special Blessings, More Guidance.

Lehi's Journey to Promise Land

- Lehi's journey is one of many where select people leave wicked place and travel to a land of promise: Lehi, Jaredites, Alma the Elder, Israelites, LDS
- These journeys are symbolic of the spiritual journey we must make to Zion (or Christ). Studying these travelers' experiences will help us make our own spiritual journey.

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- See Lehi's Journey drawing.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- **Changes We Must Make** - Take upon ourselves the name of Christ, Repent of our sins, Become innocent (without guilt), Experience mighty change of heart (born again), Have no desire to do evil, Become obedient & follow Christ in all things, Become pure, Become Holy (Consecrated), Look upon sin with abhorrence, Take upon ourselves the countenance of Christ.
- Become a disciple of Christ - By focusing on him our faith will grow so we can receive his promises.
- Become a wise virgin – receive the truth, take the Holy Spirit for your guide, don't be deceived. Become prophets and prophetesses.
- Pursue a full remission of your sins and the mighty change of heart – be born again!
- Even though exiled in Babylon, remember that you are of the house of Israel. Learn the promises made to you.
- **Tools of Change**
- Atonement - Our sins have already been paid for – but we must exercise faith in Christ - and change
- Scriptures - Teach us how to become like Christ and come unto him. Especially the Book of Mormon.
- Living Prophets - Teach us and exercise keys of salvation and exaltation in our behalf.
- Priesthood - Ordinances enable us and teach us godliness. Practice godliness by acting in his name.
- Holy Ghost - Leads us to Christ, sanctifies us, gives us spiritual gifts necessary to make this journey.
- Temples - Ordinances & learn mysteries of godliness.
- Prayer - Communicate with our Creator.

- **Final Words** (Moroni 10:30–33)

- No other people have had more evil surrounding them than we have. But no other people have had the resources for learning and doing good that we have.
- Seek the path to Christ and you will find it.
- Ask for forgiveness and you will receive it.
- Knock at the veil and it will be opened.

Recommended Reading

- *Preparation for the Second Coming*, Dallin Oaks, Ensign Magazine, May 2004
- If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear, Gordon Hinckley, Ensign Magazine, Nov 2005
- Fullness of the Gospel, John Pontius, Jan 2010, unblogmysoul.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/the-fulness-of-the-gospel.pdf
- John Pontius also has several books that are good: Following the Light of Christ into His Presence, etc.
- Trek of Treks: Journey to Our Promised Land, Larry Barkdull, (Look through list of articles), <http://ldsmag.com/author/larry-barkdull/>
- Pillars of Zion Books, Larry Barkdull, Download first book "Portrait of a Zion Person" free (PDF), <http://www.pillarsofzion.com/>
- *Experiencing the Mighty Change*, Hal Wilcox and G. Randall Klimt, 1993, Free book download (PDF), <http://justandtrue.com/share/ETMC.pdf>
- Can also read ETMC online at: <http://mightychangeofheart.com>
- One Eternal Round – My Website, toadland.net

Degrees of the Celestial Kingdom

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.)

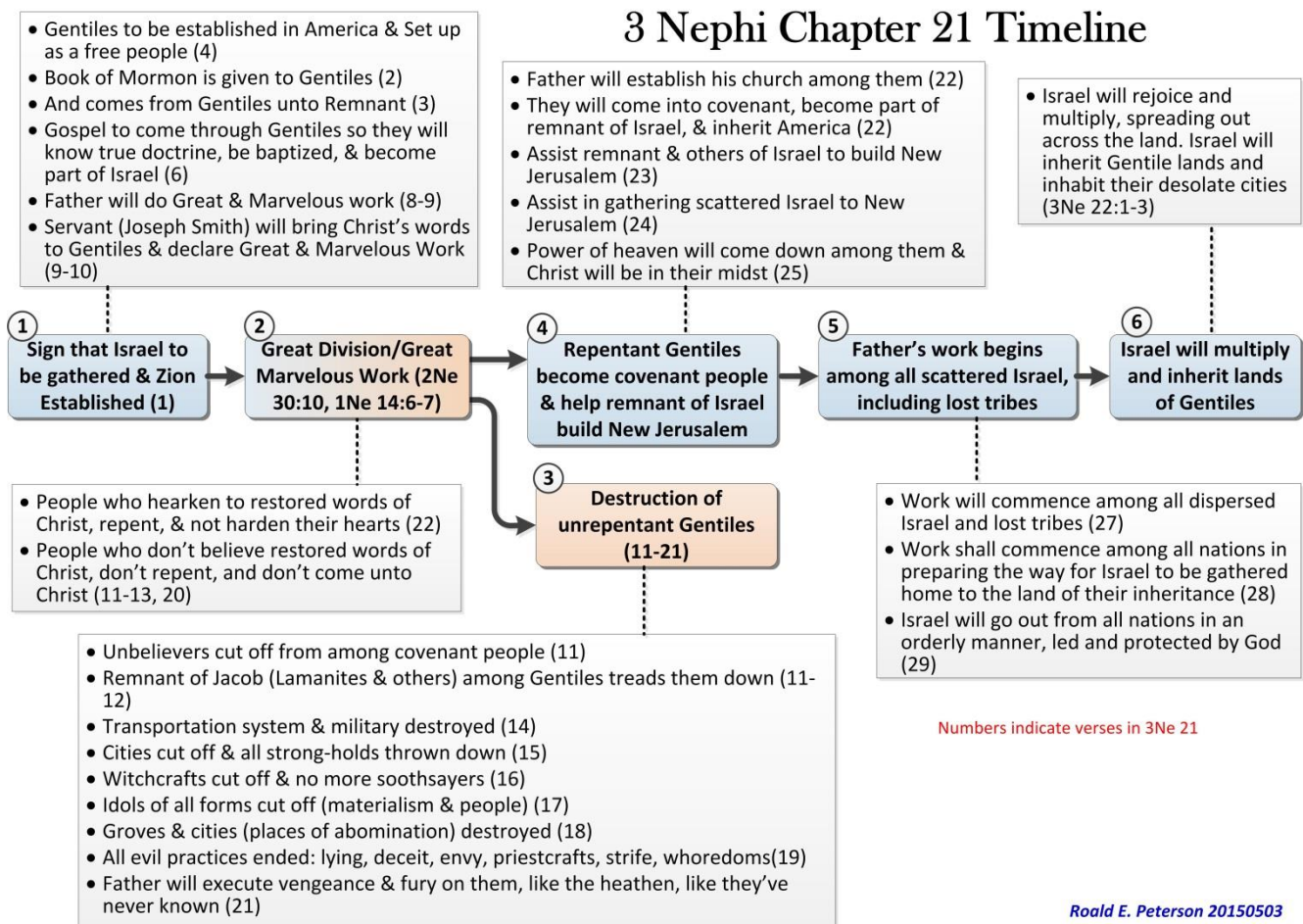
"Endowments and sealings pertain to exaltation. Baptism is the door into the celestial kingdom. All the ordinances of the gospel pertain to the celestial kingdom, and any person who is faithful to the covenant of baptism will be entitled to enter there, but no person can receive an exaltation in the 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.

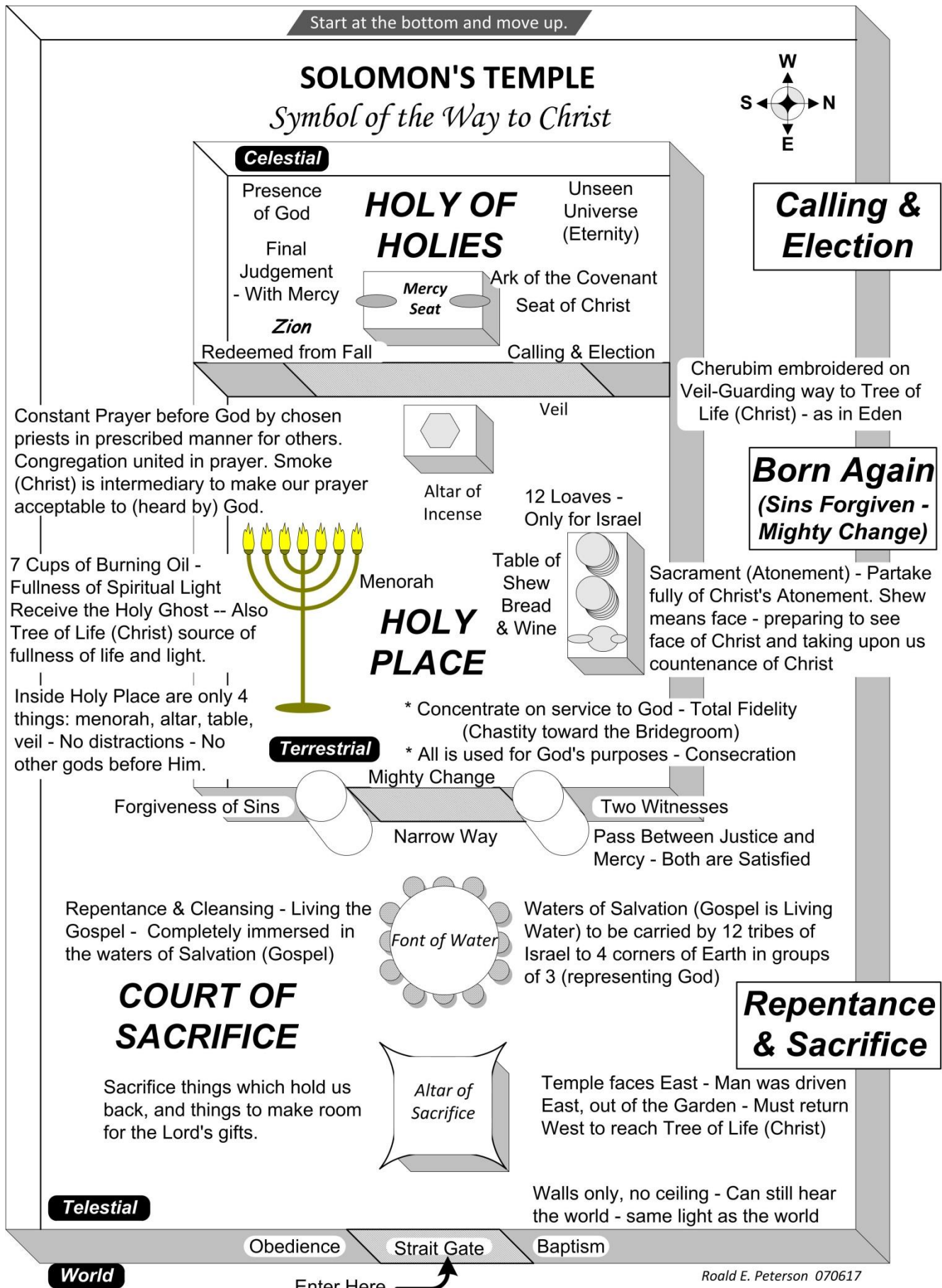
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“People baptized, and who are not endowed in the temple of the Lord, may enter the celestial kingdom. But that does not mean that a baptized person is going to get the exaltation in that kingdom. He is not going to pass on to the fulness just by being 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)

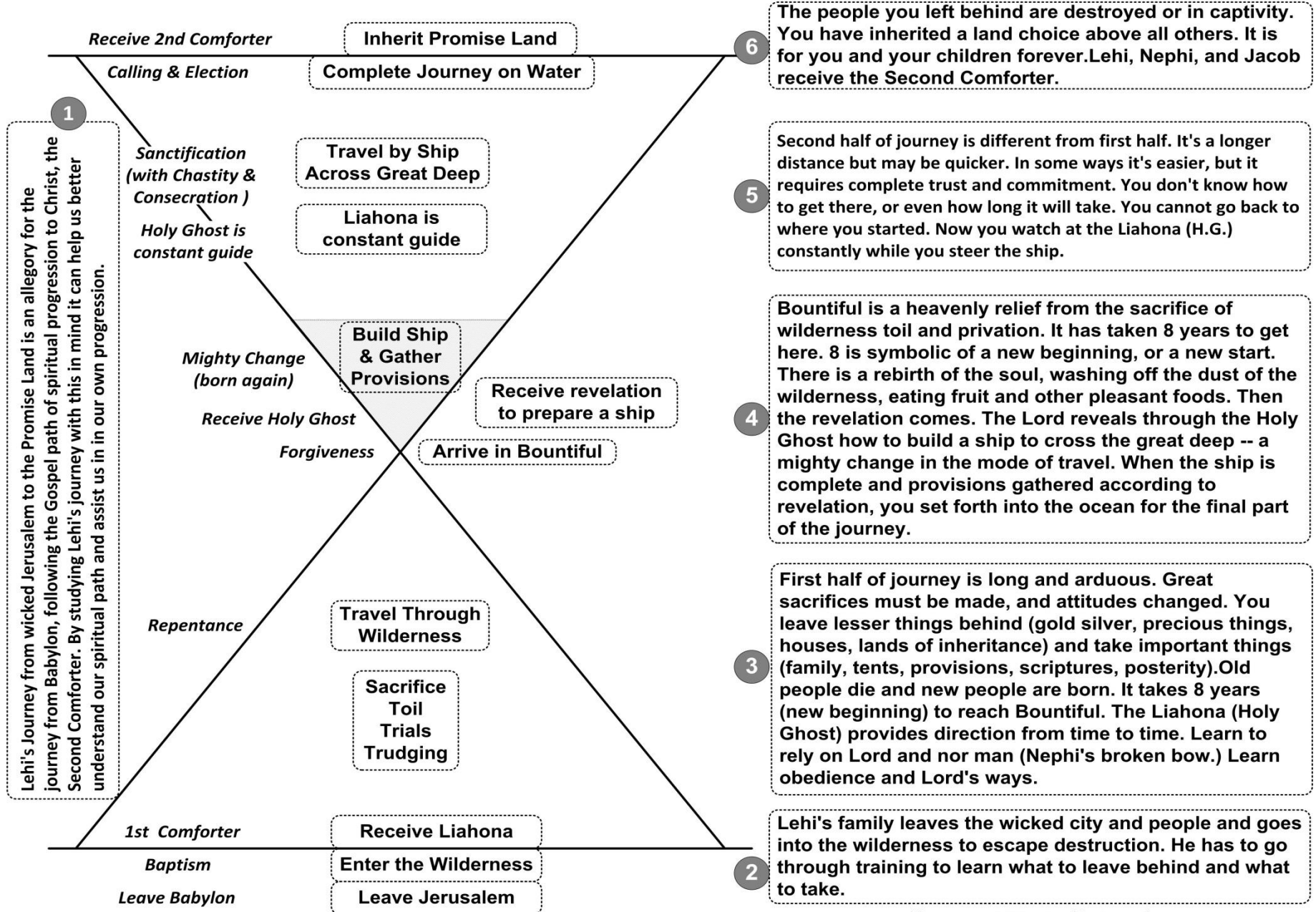
“Since the celestial kingdom will have three heavens or degrees, no doubt all who will inherit the second degree, in addition to possessing all of the qualities of those who will possess the first, or lowest degree, **will receive an endowment in the temples of God for this purpose**, and will have "overcome 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)





Lehi's Journey and the Path to Christ



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