

cometh a death, even a second death, which is a spiritual death; then is a time that whosoever dieth in his sins, as to a temporal death, shall also die a spiritual death; yea, he shall die as to things pertaining unto righteousness;

Then is the time when their torments shall be as a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flame ascendeth up for ever and ever; and then is the time when they shall be chained down to an everlasting destruction, according to the power and captivity of Satan; he having subjected them according to his will.

Then I say unto you they shall be as though there had been no redemption made; for they cannot be redeemed according to God's justice; and they cannot die, seeing that there is no more corruption. (Alma xii, 16-18.)

In this connection I will also read a little from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. (Section 76, 31-48.)

Thus saith the Lord, concerning all those who know my power, and have been made partakers thereof, and suffered themselves, through the power of the devil, to be overcome, and to deny the truth and defy my power—

They are they who are the sons of perdition, of whom I say that it had been better for them never to have been born,

For they are the vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the devil and his angels in eternity;

Concerning whom I have said there is no forgiveness in the world nor in the world to come,

Having denied the Holy Spirit after having received it, and having denied the Only Begotten Son of the Father—having crucified Him unto themselves, and put Him to open shame.

These are they who shall go away into the lake of fire and brimstone, with the devil and his angels,

And the only ones on whom the second death shall have any power;

Yea, verily, the only ones who shall not be redeemed in the due time of the Lord, after the suffering of his wrath;

For all the rest shall be brought forth by the resurrection of the dead, through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb, who was slain, who was in the bosom of the Father before the worlds were made.

Who glorifies the Father, and saves all the works of his hands, except those of perdition, who deny the Son after the Father has revealed Him;

Wherefore He saves all except them; they shall go away into everlasting punishment, which is eternal punishment, to reign with the devil and his angels in eternity, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched, which is their torment,

And the end thereof, neither the place thereof, nor their torment, no man knows,

Neither was it revealed, neither is, neither will be revealed unto man, except to those who are made partakers thereof;

Nevertheless I, the Lord, show it by vision unto many, but straightway shut it up again;

Wherefore the end, the width, the height, the depth, and the misery thereof, they understand not, neither any man except them who are ordained unto this condemnation.

Now I want to go back and repeat a few words that I read before:

Wherefore I the Lord God caused that he should be cast out from the Garden of Eden, from my presence, because of his transgression, wherein he became spiritually dead.

I want to impress upon your minds—"wherein he became spiritually dead." Now what was his condition when he was placed in the Garden of Eden? He had access to the Father. He was in His presence. He walked and talked with Him face to face, as one man walks and talks with another. This was the condition of Adam and Eve when they were in the garden. But when they partook of the forbidden fruit they were cast out and banished from the presence of God, into outer darkness, subject to

the power of Satan "Wherein they became spiritually dead, which is the first death." And it was impossible for Adam in that condition to extricate himself from the position in which he had placed himself. He was within the grasp of Satan. He was in the confines of hell. He was "spiritually dead"—banished from the presence of God. And if there had not been a way of escape provided for him, his death would have been a perpetual, endless, eternal death, without any hope of redemption therefrom. But there was a plan laid for his redemption. It was decreed by the Almighty that he should not suffer the temporal death until he should be taught the way of escape from the spiritual death that had come upon him by reason of sin. Therefore the angel came and taught him the Gospel of salvation, held up before him Christ, the Redeemer of the world, who was to come in the meridian of time possessed of power to conquer death and to redeem Adam and his posterity from the fall and from the grasp of Satan. No son of perdition, I take it, can be more completely lost than was Adam after the fall, so far as he himself was concerned. Somebody else had to reach down and help him up. Some other and higher power than his had to bring him forth out of the condition in which he had placed himself: for he was subject unto Satan and powerless and helpless in and of himself. The Gospel was, therefore, preached to him, and a way of escape from that spiritual death given unto him. That way of escape was through faith in God, repentance of sin, baptism for the remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Thereby he received a knowledge of the truth and a testimony of Jesus Christ, and was redeemed from the spiritual death that came upon him, which was the first death, and a complete and perfect death, so far as spirit was concerned, although he lived and moved and had his being, as he did before he partook of the forbidden fruit and became spiritually dead; he had his entry and his organization. But he was spiritually dead, and he had to be redeemed from that condition.

Now, why I put so much stress upon this point is that I may impress upon you the word of God as declared to us; for He says:

Wherefore I the Lord God caused that he should be cast out from the Garden of Eden, from my presence, because of his transgression, wherein he became spiritually dead, which is the first death, even that same death which is the last death, which is spiritual, which shall be pronounced upon the wicked when I shall say—Depart, ye cursed.

Thus we see that the first death which came into the world is also the last death which shall be pronounced upon the sons of perdition. What is it? Banishment from the presence of God. Banishment from the power of God. Banishment from the glory of God. Banishment from the joys of heaven. Banishment from all progress. Banishment into outer darkness. Banishment into hell, which is as a lake of fire and brimstone, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched, because the soul lives and is bound to live on, suffering the damnation of hell. This is what I understand spiritual death is. I do not understand it to be the separation of the body and the spirit again. I do not understand it to be the dissolution of the spirit into its

native element. I understand the second death to be the same as the first death—spiritual death; the same condition that Adam was in and that he had to be redeemed from by the blood of Christ, and by faith an obedience to the commands of God. By this means Adam was redeemed from the first death, and brought back again into the presence of God, back again into the favor of the Almighty, back again into the channel of eternal increase and progress. And if a man, after being placed in this condition, shall deny the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ, putting Him again to open shame and crucifying Him afresh, then that first death which fell upon our first parents will again be pronounced upon that man, and it is not written that he shall ever be delivered from it. It is not written that there is any forgiveness for it, nor any redemption therefrom.

I did not expect to speak upon this subject when I arose to talk to you, and I had not prepared myself to dwell upon it. There are, perhaps, scores of passages in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants relating to this subject. No man can possibly commit the unpardonable sin in ignorance. A man must be brought to a knowledge of Christ; he must receive a testimony of Christ in his heart, and possess light and power, knowledge and understanding, before he is capable of committing that sin. But when a man turns away from the truth, violates the knowledge that he has received, tramples it under his feet, puts Christ again to open shame, denies His atonement, denies the power of the resurrection, denies the miracles that He has wrought for the salvation of the human family, and says in his heart, "It is not true," and abides in that denial of the truth, after having received the testimony of the spirit, he commits the unpardonable sin. This is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, for which there is no forgiveness in this world nor the world to come. He will live on, an immortal soul that cannot die, and yet that cannot live in the presence of God. He will be banished into outer darkness, to suffer the consequences of his own acts. Not the consequences of an unjust, partial or wicked judgment; but the consequences of his own wickedness and transgression of the laws of God. And he will know that his punishment is just, which will but add more and more to the sorrow and anguish incident to his condition. He will know that he merits it, and that there is no redemption for him.

"Why," says one, "is not God merciful? Can He be just and yet inflict such punishment upon His own children?" Let me tell you that God does not and will not inflict it upon them. Those who enter into this death will find that they have inflicted it upon themselves, and that God has not done it. They have done it because they loved unrighteousness, they loved not the truth, and abode not in the truth. And their judgment will be just, and they will be conscious that it is just. No one perhaps will feel more sorrowful over their dreadful fate than the loving God who gave them life and being in the world, and who created us all to become formed and fashioned in the image and likeness of his Only Begotten Son, in whom there was no guile, and who was without sin unto salvation. We were foreordained and predestined to become